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Quiet first morning as Machpela Cave reopens

HERB KEINON and JON IMMANUEL

HEBRON'S Machpela Cave reopened with a whimper and not a bang yesterday morning, much to the relief of the heavy security detail standing nervous guard outside in the cold and rain.

The IDF had said it would allow 200 Jews and an equal number of Moslems into the cave at one time. This number could have been reduced by more than half, and there still would have been plenty of room to accommodate the 60 or so Jews and about a dozen Moslems who showed up for morning services.

Under the new security arrangements - which have followers of the two religions praying in completely separate halls and entering from separate entrances - they never caught sight of each other.

The worshippers were nearly outnumbered by the journalists, and must have had a difficult time concentrating on prayer as photographers variously surrounded two Jewish girls reading Psalms in the Abraham Hall, and lined up in front of a Moslem kneeling in prayer in the Jawaliya Hall, a corridor that leads to the Yitzhak Hall.

Col. Benny Gantz, commander of the Hebron region, told reporters that so few Moslems had arrived because of technical difficulties: The public address system in the minaret was not functioning properly. More than 200 Moslems arrived for evening services, however.

Palestinian Authority spokesman Nabil Abu Irdeineh described the new security arrangements as "a violation of all agreements and treaties. The Palestinian Authority rejects its rearrangement of partition."

Representatives of Hebron organizations issued a leaflet prohibiting all religions "other than Islam" from using the cave.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa criticized "security searches more complex than at lo-



A Moslem talks with a border policeman at the Machpela Cave entrance yesterday. (Brian Henderly)

cal military headquarters." In the Jewish side of the cave, the Abraham and Ya'acov Halls and a partially covered courtyard, a number of small minyanim gathered. After the Torah reading, the leader of the congregation recited the *Shehechyanu*: "Blessed art Thou, God, Lord of the universe, who has enabled us to reach this time."

This prayer pretty much summed up the sentiment of the Jews who came, even though they

did not hide their anger at being barred from the Yitzhak Hall, which is considerably larger than the two halls allocated them, and was where Baruch Goldstein murdered 29 Moslems in February.

Kiryat Arba resident Ilana El-fasi said that upon arriving, "I felt like I was entering the Garden of Eden. Our forefathers are buried here; our souls are connected to this place."

MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), one of a number of

MKs there, said, "I feel the joy of a son who is able to once again return and pray at the grave of his forefathers."

At the same time, he said the new arrangements are untenable, largely because the two halls allocated to the Jews will not be able to accommodate those who pray there on Shabbat. He said that eventually "the pressure would be so great" that the government will have to change the arrangements. (Continued on Page 2)

Rabin expected to accelerate Palestinian talks

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin will probably inform PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat today that he is willing to hold three simultaneous sets of talks on Palestinian self-rule, thereby stepping up the pace of negotiations.

This was revealed by one of those he consulted on strategy for the meeting last night.

Rabin and Arafat are to meet this afternoon at the Erez checkpoint, a meeting Palestinians say is pivotal for deciding how Palestinian self-rule outside Gaza and Jericho will move forward.

The decision appears to be a victory of sorts for Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has wanted to accelerate the negotiations.

Senior IDF officers, including Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen.

Ehud Barak, had favored sequential, rather than simultaneous talks on the three issues at hand: Palestinian elections, IDF redeployment from Palestinian population centers, and defining the scope of authority of a Palestinian self-rule council.

Sources say that in private conversations, Peres has even spoken of "Oslo II" - quiet negotiations to resolve these problems.

Until now, Barak's approach has been followed. The government is holding talks with the Palestinians only on elections, and has not even started discussions on IDF redeployment or the scope of the Palestinian self-rule outside Gaza and Jericho.

Rabin held his broadest-ever consultations on the issues last night. Present were Peres, Barak,

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, chief negotiator with the Palestinians and incoming chief of staff Maj-Gen. Amnon Shahak, IDF coordinator of activities in the territories Maj-Gen. Danny Rothschild, IDF Planning Branch head Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, and Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer.

Foreign Ministry sources say they hope the decision will go Peres' way.

"The Syrian track is not moving quickly. The public here is not behind it. Now it is time to press the Palestinian track forward," one Foreign Ministry official said.

Leading Gaza businessmen met yesterday with Arafat and urged him to press Israel to lift the closure on the Strip. Arafat is also expected to raise the issue of additional prisoner releases.

Jerusalem bill passes first reading

DAN IZENBERG

AFTER months in deep freeze, a bill was easily passed in first reading which Prime Minister Rabin declared essential for clamping down on PLO activity in eastern Jerusalem, including Orient House.

Likud MK and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, voted in favor of the bill, which was approved by a vote of 48 to 40 with two abstentions.

Rabin said approval of the bill would enable the government to prevent the establishment of institutions representing the PLO anywhere in Israel and a recurrence of meetings such as the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Tancu Ciller at Orient House on Saturday.

The Jerusalem section of the bill includes three key points:

• It bars the opening of institutions representing the Palestinian Authority or the holding of meetings on its behalf inside Israel

without special permission.

• It gives the government the right to prevent the PLO from opening offices or holding public meetings inside Israel.

• It underscores the right of the police to enter any facility where the law is being violated.

The bill, which includes legislation made necessary by the provisions of the Cairo and Oslo agreements, was originally presented to the Knesset several months ago. However, it was not put to a vote at the time because all the factions except Labor and Meretz opposed it. Yesterday, two Yit'ud MKs voted for the bill while all six Shas MKs stayed away from the plenum.

Earlier in the day, Rabin spoke for two hours with Olmert in an effort to convince the mayor to support the bill. Olmert later told

reporters: "In light of what is happening in Jerusalem, I'm afraid if I continue to argue about the agreement with the PLO, I lend a hand to the rejection of the bill, and don't give the government the means to close Orient House. I will not be serving the city properly."

He added that many Likud MKs would have liked to abstain. "For me, Jerusalem is not a theoretical issue," said Olmert.

Rabin also met before the vote with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, who demanded the government separate the Jerusalem section of the legislation from the sections dealing with the implementation of the Oslo accords. Rabin has indicated willingness to do so during the preparation of the bill for second and third reading.

During a closed meeting of the Labor faction, Rabin strongly (Continued on Page 2)

Husseini: The choice is Orient House or Hamas

FAISAL Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, yesterday rejected the government's attempt to limit Palestinian political activity in the capital.

Husseini vowed to continue meeting with foreign diplomats and leaders at Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

"We can go two ways: the way of Orient House, or the way of Hamas," Husseini said.

Husseini was speaking to reporters after a meeting with French Health Minister Simone Weil at Orient House. Police Minister Moshe Shahal reportedly said the meeting had the government's approval.

Police set up a roadblock outside the headquarters for about two hours yesterday morning, checking the identity papers of anyone trying to enter.

An Orient House spokesman said no one was prevented from entering the complex, but complained of unnecessary police harassment of its workers.

Shahal said police would prevent visits not coordinated in advance with the government -

BILL HUTMAN and DAVID MAKOVSKY

like Saturday's visit by Turkish Prime Minister Tancu Ciller.

Ciller's visit - during which Israeli security personnel were forced to stay outside Orient House by their Palestinian counterparts - sparked the most recent calls by the opposition and from within the government to clamp down on Palestinian political activity at the PLO headquarters.

Meanwhile, Husseini and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert made moving appeals for their opposing views on the future of the capital, in separate appearances before Jerusalem Foundation members yesterday.

Husseini demanded east Jerusalem be made the capital of a future Palestinian state. Olmert said Palestinians should not even be granted limited sovereignty, on grounds that would lead to the city's redivision.

"Jerusalem can be the warm sun of the Middle East, or, if ignored, it can be the black hole of the Middle East swallowing all the fruits of the peace process," Husseini said.

He added that the city was de facto divided, and that only by establishing a separate Palestinian authority in eastern Jerusalem would the city indeed become reunited.

"I believe the only solution is an open city with the buildings of both capitals," Husseini said. "Jerusalem can be the capital of capitals. It can create within it the center for services for the entire Middle East," Husseini said.

Olmert, speaking later in the day, cautioned that "Jerusalem in the coming weeks and months will become the most explosive issue in the country." He called Husseini "the person who pretends to represent the Palestinians as a semi-mayor," and who supported a position that would eventually redivide Jerusalem.

Olmert said the idea of shared Palestinian and Israeli sovereignty "in real life will not work."

Israel must be flexible in negotiating control over the Moslem holy sites in the city, but remain "tough on the political issues," Olmert said.

12% of the country lived below poverty line in '93 IBA deletes court-approved Szenes lines from 'Kastner'

Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim

EVELYN GORDON and LIAT COLLINS

SOME 648,000 people, about 12 percent of the population, lived below the poverty line last year, even as the economy boomed and the consumer society flourished as never before, a report by the National Insurance Institute disclosed yesterday.

The report said the number of poor in 1993 rose by 5.4% over 1992. But the number of elderly poor rose by 16% and the number of large families that fell below the poverty line was higher by 13%.

By contrast, the number of immigrants living below the line dropped drastically - by more than 30%.

Poor people were defined as households living on less than half of the average national wage of NIS 3,985 a month, a figure provided by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

At a press conference marking the release of the report, Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said the drop in unemployment from 11.2% to 10% in 1993 slowed the increase in poverty, as did the real rise in the average wage.

But the government's anti-poverty plan approved this year to try to push 50,000 families back over the poverty line obviously had no effect on 1993 figures, she said.

Labor Ministry officials said that in addition to the anti-poverty plan, they planned to push for the following:

• An increase in the child allowance for those receiving income maintenance, up from 6% to 10% above the regular child allowance. This would affect the families of some 16,000 children and cost the government NIS 58 million.

• Giving the same child allowances to single heads of households who do not meet the regular criteria for single-parent families as are given those who do meet the criteria. This would affect some 3,400 families.

• Raising the disability allowance by 7% for some 6,200 families who are in extreme financial distress, which would cost some NIS 90m.

THE Israel Broadcasting Authority, along with the creators of the docu-drama *The Kastner Trial*, decided last night to delete two lines about Hanna Szenes from the program.

The decision followed yesterday's High Court of Justice decision not to order the lines, which accuse Szenes of betraying two comrades to the Nazis, stricken from the program, even though all sides agree the accusation is false.

The IBA said it was satisfied with the court's decision, which strengthened the IBA's independence and emphasized freedom of speech and creativity. However, it added, in the spirit of the court's remarks, it decided to remove the offending lines.

Justices Aharon Barak and Eliahu Mazza, with Mishael Cheshin dissenting, said the right to censor the program resided with the Israel Broadcasting Authority, and not the court.

The ruling was a response to two petitions: one by Szenes' brother, Giora, her nephews David and Eitan, and deputy Yad Vashem chairman Reuven Dafni; and a second by the Women in Green.

The petitions challenged a segment of *The Kastner Trial*, by

Mordechai Lerner, scheduled for last night, tonight, and tomorrow. It is based on the 1950s libel trial of Malkiel Greenwald, who accused Hungarian Zionist leader Israel Kastner of collaborating with the Nazis.

In the segment in question, which is to be aired tonight, Kastner accuses Hanna Szenes of betraying two of her comrades.

The Szenes' attorney, Gabriel Levy, argued that this segment should be excised because it was not true and gravely injured the family.

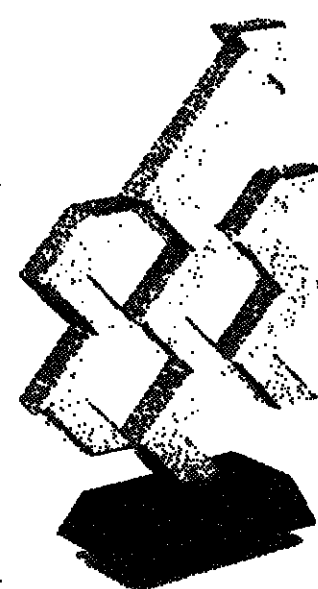
In response, government attorney Uzi Fogelman argued that the production was never meant to be a factual representation, therefore there was no reason for the IBA to censor it.

"Are we talking about a fictional drama... or a film which is trying to be documentary?" Mazza demanded. "You admit there is no evidence [for the accusation against Szenes], so why are these two lines necessary?"

Later, though, Barak and Mazza asked if it would not be sufficient to have ITV broadcast a disclaimer after the second episode, stating that it is a work of fiction and not a documentary. Levy rejected this.

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Syria: Christopher could bring progress

CAIRO (AP) — A trip to the Middle East later this month by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher could bring progress in Syrian-Israeli peace talks, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said yesterday.

Shara made the remarks after briefing Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the peace process.

"We expect US Secretary of State Warren Christopher to come to the region before the end of the month for talks in Da-

mascus and the area, and maybe something will come out of it to resume the Syrian-Israeli talks in Washington," Shara said. "We hope that we can establish tangible progress in the near future."

"There could be an agreement to resume the talks...on clear and sound principles. It depends how serious Israel is and how it responds to the requirements of peace which Syria has proposed," he added, as he departed from Cairo Airport.

"We believe Syria has done ev-

erything it can to make the peace process succeed and the ball is now in Israel's court," he said.

Shara's comments were carried by the Middle East News Agency. Shara also said that President Bill Clinton's trip to the Middle East last month had "positive results," but gave no details. He noted that Clinton had spoken of progress after his visit to Damascus last month.

"In any case, we felt that President Clinton wanted to follow up

the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks," he said. "We noticed an American understanding of the saying 'Full withdrawal in exchange for full peace,'" he added.

Shara gave no further clues to the state of the highly secretive US mediation between Syria and Israel.

Asked about Iraq's announcement that it was no longer at war with Israel, Shara said this was Iraq's affair and it did not put pressure on Syria to compromise.

"Syria is sticking to its positions and to its just demands for achieving a just and comprehensive peace," he added.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters it was strange for Iraq to change its attitude towards Israel before changing its attitude towards its Arab neighbor Kuwait.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tarik Aziz told the French monthly *Le Monde Diplomatique* that Iraq had no problems with Israel and was no longer at war with it.

'Oman-Israel relations have existed since mid-1970s'

DAVID MAKOVSKY
and news agencies

ISRAEL and Oman have maintained quiet links for close to 20 years, with representatives of the Prime Minister's Office even being based in that country, sources confirm.

There are unconfirmed reports that Omani Foreign Minister Yussuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdulla has secretly visited Israel on more than one occasion.

Oman was the one Arab state that did not sever links with Egypt when Anwar Sadat made his historic visit to Jerusalem.

Israel will enjoy some form of diplomatic ties with all the Gulf states soon, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin reportedly predicted during a visit to Oman yesterday.

Beilin held three hours of talks with Bin Alawi, but no announcement was made when formal links or the establishment of a liaison office would occur.

"I believe we are speaking about diplomatic relations between Israel and the Arab world apart from Libya, Iraq and Sudan in a very short while, not more than some months.... The tide is irreversible. I'm sure we will have diplomatic relations with all the Gulf states including Oman. This is only the beginning of a chain of talks," Beilin told reporters.

Beilin said he visited Qatar on his way to Oman yesterday. "I met some Qatari officials of the Foreign Ministry and talked about bilateral relations. It was an unprepared visit, just transit," he said.

Beilin first came to Oman in April at the head of a delegation on water talks. During that meeting, an Omani proposal to establish a desalination research and technology center in Muscat was accepted. The center, whose staff will include Israeli experts, will support regional cooperation in desalination research.

Beilin said he talked to Oman's minister yesterday about peace and "areas where Oman can be more interested, especially the issue of water as well as the results of the Casablanca summit."

He said the three-hour meeting "emphasized the need for ongoing dialogue between the two countries" and added that they would soon "establish economic relations in the agricultural and industrial sectors."

Meanwhile, Tunisia declared yesterday that furthering relations beyond a new liaison office depends on Israel's progress in peace talks.

Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, speaking in a radio address on the seventh anniversary of the palace coup that brought him to power, said that peace must be "just and lasting."

"Depending on the progress of negotiations by the concerned parties, and upon concrete results, our relations with Israel will change," Ben Ali told the nation.

The two countries announced last week they would establish liaison offices, though neither has yet opened. Foreign Ministry sources say they should open simultaneously in about 10 weeks.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Prof. Vinis Gouda, Egypt's minister of science, visited the Weizmann Institute of Science yesterday and was received by President Prof. Haim Harari.

HAIFA READERS

Senior staffers of The Jerusalem Post will be visiting Haifa on Wednesday, November 16.

Readers and friends are invited to meet with them at 5:30 p.m. at the Haifa Town Hall, for a questions and answers session, in the presence of Mayor Amram Mitzna. Refreshments. Please confirm your attendance by phoning CLC 02-247555.



Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon gets a point across to workers who met yesterday to protest mass firings. Ramon was not invited to the meeting but attended to vindicate his plans. (Israel Sun/Hanoch Grizisky)

Ramon tells Histadrut workers: Anyone who wants to leave can go

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

ANY Histadrut employee who wants to retire can do so, Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon stated at a workers' meeting held to protest the mass dismissals from Histadrut headquarters. Ramon told the workers he will move the Histadrut to Jerusalem within the year.

Ramon appeared uninvited at the meeting to vindicate his dismissal plans, and told the workers that "we have inherited a budget which I did not anticipate even in my worst nightmares."

He said the retirement and severance payment plan he is offering the 265 workers to be fired from headquarters is one of the best in the country, better than those the Histadrut managed to hammer out for other workers' sectors.

However, the Histadrut workers' union said yesterday that the retirement agreement for its own fired workers is worse, and offers less than equivalent agreements in other sectors, which the Histadrut was involved in obtaining.

According to analyses provided by economist and wage-agreement expert Dr. Linda Efroni, both the pension settlement, which

fails to link the pension to the cost-of-living index, and the severance payments, which are dozens of percent lower than those received by other workers' groups, are inferior to retirement agreements reached in other sectors.

"It is quite amazing to see what the Histadrut, which achieved much better deals when it was fighting employers in other sectors, managed to get when it was formulating an agreement for its own workers," Efroni wrote cynically in her opinion to the union.

She also noted that the figure of 250 percent severance fees offered the most senior workers was misleading, as it includes the workers' pension, which cannot be touched if the worker wants to receive full pension at the age of 65. Deducting the pension component, the severance fee reaches only about 170 percent.

Pension expert and consultant Dr. Dan Sprincaz is also of the opinion that the retirement plan for the fired workers is inferior compared to others acceptable in the country.

Union chairwoman Bracha Zigelman said yesterday that the Histadrut's attempt to bypass the union by serving dismissal notices to 265 workers without reaching an agreement with the union beforehand, as had been agreed upon, was "uncalled for, unhelpful and caused unnecessary grief to many workers, who will not be fired after all, since the lists which management formulated did not include dozens of workers who will retire voluntarily."

She said that the main bone of contention between the union and the Histadrut leadership is the pension payment for those workers under the age of 57.

She noted that in the Israel Aircraft Industries and Israel Military Industries, a budgetary pension was offered to all workers who were made redundant, until they reached the age of 65, while the Histadrut offered a pension only to men from the age of 57 and women from the age of 52.

Zigelman noted that a worker retiring at 50 has few chances of finding another job and will have no income until he reaches pension age.

Dialogue with Hamas unlikely to get far

BACKGROUND

JON IMMANUEL

REMARKS by politicians over the past two weeks have conveyed the impression that a dialogue with Hamas is possible. Words are usually preferable to war, but in this case they are unlikely to get very far.

When all the statements are read carefully, they all say the same thing. If Hamas accepts the Oslo framework, Israel will talk to it. This is what Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur means when he says he would talk to Hamas if it sat in an elected council. Joining the council prescribed by the Oslo accords would be tantamount to working within the accords.

But to believe that dialogue with Hamas is possible in the same way it became possible with the PLO is fallacious.

To mean anything, a political dialogue with Hamas must offer Hamas something not already offered to the PLO. That is impossible because it would undermine the PLO-Israel treaty. Whatever political role Hamas plays in the future depends not on Israel, but on the PLO.

But even as the PLO urges Hamas to engage in "dialogue," it has frozen Hamas out of minor political roles in Gaza City and Nablus. It has not even offered Hamas any of the religious positions the PLO controls.

The PLO and Hamas are engaged only in an operational dialogue, aimed at avoiding violence between them. Its basis is "leave us alone, and we'll leave you alone." But Hamas understands that it can operate against Israel in areas where the Palestinian Police have no formal authority.

If Israel were to engage in a similar dialogue with Hamas, it would have to free all Palestinian prisoners and guarantee that it would not harm Palestinian civilians living in areas it controls — even those who use violence. This would demonstrate that Hamas could achieve what the PLO could not.

But most demands by Hamas leaders involve more than that. They call for solid political concessions, starting with a promise to dismantle settlements.

Israel's decision to talk politics with the PLO in 1993 had a lot to do with its wish to avoid talking politics with Hamas in 1994. The last time Israel talked to Hamas was 10 years ago.

Although there are moderates associated with Hamas who are close to their beliefs to the those of 10 years ago, they are in no position to set policy, partly because they are not politically motivated.

If they decide to translate their moderation into political action and accept the Oslo framework, they will do so regardless of any dialogue with Israel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two killed in road accident

Two people were killed and three injured, two seriously and one moderately, in a traffic accident on the Kiryat Gat-Ashkelon road last night. The accident occurred when a driver lost control and ran on to the opposite shoulder of the road. When he tried to get back into traffic, he hit a van head-on.

Fresh produce from Gaza banned

Vegetables and fruit grown in Gaza will not be allowed to enter Israel beginning today due to the fear they were grown with polluted water. The Health Ministry advises the public to wash the produce with soap and water before eating.

A health official in Gaza denied yesterday that seven Gazans who were brought to Shifa Hospital in Gaza were stricken with cholera.

PA doubts report of arrest of Israeli agent

The Palestinian Authority yesterday questioned the veracity of a report by the Al-Haq human rights agency, which claimed that Gaza Police had some time ago arrested a man who had received orders from Israel to kidnap or kill Islamic Jihad activist Hami Abed. Abed was killed in Khan Yunis last Wednesday, when a bomb exploded as he was getting into his car.

Nabil Abu Irdeineh, spokesman for the Palestinian Authority, was skeptical about the by the Ramallah-based "I don't think it is correct," he said.

Preparatory arms-control talks in Jordan

The multilateral Arms Control and Regional Security talks will meet today in Jordan to discuss issues that will be dealt with in full in December in Tunis. The Jordanian operational workshop included delegates from Israel, Turkey, the Palestinians, Egypt, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Kuwait), Yemen, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Canada, France, Australia, the US, Holland and Russia.

Preliminary talks on setting the agenda were held yesterday. Meanwhile, multilateral negotiations began yesterday in Athens on water management and conservation. About 160 officials from 45 delegations, including 13 Middle East parties, are taking part in the three-day meeting.

Oren Edri marrying tonight

Lt. Oren Edri, who is on trial for stealing weapons, unauthorized military training, and conduct unbecoming an officer in connection with the alleged Jewish terrorist underground, is marrying Bruria Lavi of Elon Moreh tonight. Edri, a Kiryat Arba resident who has been detained for over two months, was given a 72-hour furlough. His trial is due to resume on Sunday.

NEWSLINE

with REUVEN DAFNI

Dafni is deputy chairman of Yad Vashem and commander of the Jewish paratroopers — including Hanna Szenes — who were dropped behind enemy lines in World War Two.

The High Court of Justice yesterday decided not to order Israeli TV to delete from the mini-series *The Kastner Trial* (the first part of which was aired last night) a scene in which Hannah Szenes is portrayed as having betrayed her comrades in arms. As Szenes's commander, what do you have to say about this?

I am deeply saddened that the judges chose to relate to the issue as a juridical rather than a human question. The accusations [in the mini-series] about Hanna, who was the symbol of utmost courage, are sheer lies and malice. Even the producer has agreed that he took "poetic license" when he put the "charges" into Kastner's mouth.

Even if Israel TV holds a debate in the studio after the screening, it will be hard to correct the tarnished image. I hope that generations of youth will not grow up with the wrong impression. Ironically, it is exactly 50 years to the day when Hanna was executed.

Let's put the record straight... We must remember that when our plans were drawn up, the Nazis had not yet overrun Hungary. We hoped to reach the thousands of Jewish youth in the youth movements, teach them how to defend themselves and help those who wanted to leave, to get to Palestine. Perhaps we were not as successful as we had hoped, but at least we tried to do something.

We parachuted into Yugoslavia on March 3, 1944 — and

five days later the Germans attacked. Hanna, together with Peretz Goldstein, Yoel Palgi and Yona Rozen, were supposed to have used their original Hungarian papers, as they had been born there.

"We had to change our plans. It took us three months to organize a new identity for Hanna, that of a non-Jewish young woman-about her age."

Hanna crossed the border on the night of June 9. She was caught an hour later and jailed in Budapest the following day. She was subjected to the most terrible torture and did not break.

The film reportedly charges that she betrayed the whereabouts of her comrades...

She had no idea and could not have had any idea when and where Palgi and Goldstein were going to cross over [from Yugoslavia to Hungary]. She was in jail and they in fact crossed the border only 13 days later.

What facts do we have to prove that Hanna did not hand over secrets under duress?

The Germans wanted her code to transmit disinformation to the British. She never revealed this. Not one [German] message with the code reached the British either in Bari or in Cairo until the end of the war. This proves she did not break down.

In addition, MK Dov Shilansky spoke [in Argentina, after the war] to the judge who had tried Hanna. He has a recording.

The judge told him: "She was a martyr. She was the Israeli people's Joan of Arc." He said that was why he had sentenced her to death. What better proof can we have than that?

BILL

(Continued from Page 1)

MACHPELA

(Continued from Page 1)

Ariel Sharon (Likud), Rehavam Ze'evi (Mokedet), Moshe Peled (Tsoomet), Shaul Yahalom (NRP), and Shlomo Benizri (Shas) also went to the cave.

Under the new arrangements, Jews and Moslems will each have total access to the cave on 10 of their holy days.

Upon entering the cave, both Moslems and Jews must empty their pockets and go through two sets of metal detectors. At one point an Arab worker, whose small screwdriver continuously set them off, was told to leave it outside.

Despite the enhanced security, Avishai Raviv, one of the about 30 Kach and Kahane Hai activists who have been barred from the cave, boasted he had managed to get inside.

The only contact between Jews and Arabs is in the courtyard between the Avraham and Ya'acov Halls, where the Waik offices are located. Gantz said Waik employees will be escorted by guards any time they want to leave their offices.

Outside the cave, Hamadi Natshe, who said he is related to Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, said the day was "a sad one."

"We are very angry because the Jews are in the cave only as a result of power," he said. "This is very sad day for us because it is the first time we are kept from going everywhere in the cave."

His solution to the conundrum of access to the cave. "In the future, we will see the Palestinian Authority here, and I don't think we should allow Jews to pray here. Maybe later, when we have a state, they can pray in the cave when it is completely clear that we are the owners, that the cave is ours."

Near the cave merchants explained their absence from prayer. "I don't want to go through a security check. I only hope that now they have opened the mosque, they will open this street so that I can get back some business," said grocer Maher Ahmed.

Jewish activist Orli Shtruck insisted Moslems have no inherent right to the cave. "The cave is a Jewish place," she said, standing outside the Avraham Hall. "But Israel is a country that gives freedom of worship. Still, we are the owners of the cave, it belongs to us."

David Makovsky adds:

Israel was informed a week in advance that Weill intended to visit Orient House, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Since there is no law forbidding such visits, the Foreign Ministry issues no directives to embassies here or to foreign leaders abroad limiting such visits.

Rather, a senior official said, "we do say verbally that we urge them to avoid doing anything with Palestinians that can bring the Jerusalem issue to the fore now."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Channel One last night that Israel plans to raise the issue of the meetings at Orient House today when Rabin meets PLO leader Yasser Arafat at the Erez checkpoint.

The Jerusalem Foundation shares the grief of the family in deeply mourning the passing of

MILTON PETRIE

A wonderful man and a good friend of Jerusalem

We were shocked to hear the sad news and send you our deepest condolences. Jerusalem has lost a dear friend.

The funeral of

Rabbi YEHUDAH LEIB ISBEE זצ"ל

will take place today, Tuesday, November 8, at 9 a.m., leaving from the Shagar Funeral Home in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Isbee זצ"ל served among the Roshai Yeshiva of Torah Voda'as and Yeshiva University; as Rabbi of the Young Israel of Astor Gardens in the Bronx; and as Executive Board Member of the Rabbinical Council of America.

He was the brother-in-law of HaGaon Rabbi Gedalia Schorr זצ"ל and the son-in-law of Rabbi Nachman Kowalsky זצ"ל.

The remains will arrive today on El Al flight 014 at 7 a.m. For details: Rabbi Sholem B. Kowalsky, 02-659514, or Rabbi Yitzhak Isbee, 02-973505.

Clalit hospital workers to strike on Thursday

JUDY SIEGEL

MOST of Kupat Holim Clalit's workers are to strike Thursday morning, to protest the non-payment of their October salaries.

The open-ended strike, will affect all the Histadrut health fund's hospitals and community clinics. Only a small number of staffers will be left to take care of emergencies.

Clalit director-general Avigdor Kaplan yesterday asked the workers to reconsider. During the next couple of days, Kaplan said he would try to persuade the workers to reach an agreement that will allow the approved recovery plan to be carried out, since only if this occurs will the government transfer funds to pay the salaries.

In the meantime, management is "getting organized in case a strike will indeed occur," Kaplan said. Fifty Clalit works committees yesterday voted to approve a general strike. The union representing nurses, maintenance workers, clerks and technicians issued a statement criticizing Clalit's 6,000 physicians for the doctors union's "ambiguous stand and conflicting announcements regarding the health fund's recovery program, which cause difficulties in negotiating with management."

"The same sword of Damocles over our heads, also hangs over the heads of the doctors," the statement said. Acting union

chairman Moshe Zeligler said the workers are fighting not for higher salaries or improved working conditions, but merely the right to get paid for work already performed. He denounced the government's linking the payment of wages and to the demands related to the recovery program. The government has told the workers that in return for subsidies for Clalit, the staffers will have to accept reduced wages, dismissals and longer working hours.

Meanwhile, the union representing Clalit hospital doctors stated yesterday that they are willing to grant a 10-year linked loan to management instead of wage reductions. Union head Dr. Haim Solan called on Health Minister Ephraim Sneh to persuade the Treasury that this was a viable option.

Regarding other concessions demanded of Clalit staffers, Solan said each professional group should reach agreement separately with management, and that the same concessions need not be unanimously approved by all workers.

Nevertheless, the doctors said that if their wages are not paid in a few days, they would respond. Solan hinted that the doctors, too, would strike and at the same time petition the labor court over the withheld wages.

Ministry denies Shahal's claim of higher health tax

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry yesterday denied a claim by Police Minister Moshe Shahal that the new health tax for families with two breadwinners would be "double" what they pay as members of a health fund today.

Shahal, speaking in Haifa on Sunday, also said he expects that "500,000 members" would abandon Kupat Holim Clalit after the national health insurance system takes effect on January 1. The law will allow freedom of movement from one health fund to another, without any connection to affiliation with the Histadrut or other organizations.

Asked to comment, Health Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai said "a married couple who both work will pay more, but not double. At the same time, a family with only one breadwinner will pay less." Under the present system, a working wife gets credit points that reduces her health insurance membership fees; this will be canceled under the new system.

Clalit spokesman David Tegar rejected Shahal's prediction of a mass abandonment of Clalit.

"There is no basis for this. According to our surveys, Clalit will begin a new chapter under national health insurance. We already see a trend of return to Clalit rather than abandonment," Tegar said.

Artists' group opposed to screening of Dahn Ben-Amotz's farewell party

LIAT COLLINS

BOHEMIAN author and newspaper columnist Dahn Ben-Amotz continues to be the focus of controversy five years after his death, and nearly three years after the publication of the lurid Amnon Dankner biography of him implicated several leading entertainers and journalists in sex scandals.

This time, the Israel Association of Artists, is demanding that the Israel Broadcasting Authority refrain from screening the recording made of Ben-Amotz's farewell party, scheduled to be shown Saturday on Channel 1.

Ben-Amotz held a night club "funeral bash" for his friends six months before he died at 66, of liver cancer, in October 1989. At

the party, Ben-Amotz read a farewell letter to the 300 friends and socialites who had gathered to pay their penultimate respects.

Some of these stars, including Hava Alberman, Yossi Banai, Shlomo Artzi, Rita, Yehudit Ravitz and Nurit Galron sent a lawyer's letter to IBA head Mordechai Kirschenbaum, who was also among the guests, saying they had been told the party was a private event and that the film of it would be for private use only. "The type of broadcast you are planning is a brutal violation of personal privacy. With all respect, even 'ratings,' as serious as they might be, do not justify this predatory invasion of privacy," the letter said.



Following their arrival from Jordan, Heba Shaban, her parents and baby brother Muhadi are welcomed to Hadassah Hospital by Prof. Shimon Slavin. (Avi Hayoun)

Jordanian bone marrow transplant patient arrives

JUDY SIEGEL

DOCTORS yesterday decided to give Heba Shaban blood transfusions to strengthen her before the 12-year-old Jordanian girl undergoes a bone-marrow transplant in a few days at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

The family arrived via the Allenby Bridge in the early afternoon. The girl, accompanied by her parents and 10-month-old brother Muhadi, who will donate the bone marrow, was warmly received by the hospital, which sent an Arabic-speaking nurse as an interpreter.

The Prime Minister's Office has already collected donations to cover half the \$40,000 cost of the transplant. The parents are being hosted by the Matalon family in Kibbutz Tzova for the duration of their stay.

Prof. Shimon Slavin, head of the national bone-marrow transplant center at Hadassah, said there was a 90 percent cure rate in such cases. The girl, who suffers from severe aplastic anemia, has her young age as a plus in her favor, Slavin said.

All the members of her family were tested, and only her baby brother was found to be a perfect match.

The girl, who lives in Zarqa, wrote to Prime Minister Rabin a day after the peace treaty was signed with Jordan, begging him to make it possible for her to get treatment here. Her father Rushdi, who speaks some English, thanked Rabin for his efforts.

Slavin added that Israeli doctors have a lot to teach and learn from Jordanian physicians.

'Aladdin' team to work magic on King David

HELEN KAYE

THE Oscar-winning team of composer Alan Menken and librettist Tim Rice have started work on a musical based on the life of King David, which will have its world premiere in Jerusalem in 1996 as part of the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations.

"A musical seemed right to me because David was a musician, a composer and a writer, a great biblical hero and yet a man for our time," said the project's producer Andre Djaoui yesterday, adding that he had approached Menken and Rice "because they are the best in the world."

Menken and Rice left yesterday after five days in Israel for meetings and soaking up atmosphere in Jerusalem and the Judean desert.

"I'm happy to be working with Alan again," said Rice. "I feel that the musical form is best for a majestic subject like King David. He's a fantastic subject for any artist to work with."

This is the third time the two have collaborated. The stage version of *Beauty and the Beast* opened on Broadway this year and the film version collected two Golden Globes and four Grammy awards. *Aladdin* received an Oscar for best song.

Separately both also have successful and distinguished stage and film careers. Rice's early successes were *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Evita* with Andrew Lloyd Webber. Menken rose to prominence with *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Co-producer Hillard Elkins promises a state-of-the-art extravaganza with an as-yet unnamed international star in the lead. Israelis may be cast in lesser roles "because this is an international production which we hope to take to 22 cities throughout the world, so we need a name that everyone will recognize," Elkins said.



Tim Rice (standing) and Alan Menken will apply their wizardry to King David. (Liat Collins)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tourist's body found on Haifa beach

The body of a 33-year-old tourist, Elena Krupchik, from the CIS was discovered on the Carmel beach at the southern edge of Haifa yesterday morning. A friend had reported to the police on Sunday that they had been walking along the shore, when the tourist suddenly plunged into the water and disappeared. She had been here to visit her parents. *Itim*

'Agency NY office helped in Dinitz non-reporting'

Uzi Narkiss, who was head of the Jewish Agency delegation in New York, wrote a letter to Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz in which he claimed that the agency finance department and the New York delegation bear some responsibility for his not reporting his personal expenses, Narkiss told the Jerusalem District Court yesterday.

He did this because he liked and admired Dinitz, and wanted to "calm the media storm" following published reports that Dinitz had used an agency credit card for personal expenses.

Narkiss admitted that by this letter he was admitting that office he headed was partially responsible for the non-reporting of the expenses. Narkiss signed Dinitz's credit card receipts and arranged to have his bills paid. *Itim*

Deri's defense hammers former Arim manager

In yesterday's session of the ongoing trial of former interior minister Aryeh Deri on bribery, fraud and breach of trust charges, the defense continued its cross-examination of Moshe Ayin-Mor, former managing director of Arim. Defense attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak tried to show that Arim's high prices led the non-profit organization hoping to build homes at Nebi Samwil to remove it from the project. *Itim*

Annual fund-raising drive for deaf

Reuma Weizman will kick off the annual fund-raising campaign on behalf of the blind and the deaf this morning, when dozens of disabled youngsters will be her guests at Beit Hanassi where she will make the first donation in the drive.

Although the campaign will be officially launched today, contributions can be made all week and volunteers will go from door to door to collect funds next Tuesday, the spokesman added.

Woman recovers lost bag - and NIS 28,000

When Ben Caspit, a security guard at the Tel Aviv Sheraton, opened the woman's handbag a bus driver turned in to him after finding it on his bus three weeks ago, he discovered the owner's identity card, several phone numbers, and NIS 28,000 in cash.

After all his efforts to track down the owner in person and by phone failed, he gave the bag to the hotel's chief security officer Avi Gat, who passed it on to the police. The hotel was notified this week that an immigrant from Russia had turned up at the police Lost and Found department in Jaffa to report the loss, and that the bag and its contents had been returned to her.

Golan to be cited at Academy Awards

Producer/director Menahem Golan will receive a Life Achievement award at the 1994 Israel Academy Awards ceremony on November 24 at the Mann Auditorium. *Siren Song*, *The Distance*, and *Black* are among the 12 locally made feature films which will compete for Best Picture and Israel's entry for Best Foreign Film in the 1994 Oscars. The 12 join 21 documentaries and seven TV dramas all competing for NIS 200,000 prize money in 16 categories. This is the first year that TV films have been eligible.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, king of hearts, king of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

Ben-Eliezer lauds gov't housing policy for new immigrants

BATSHEVA TSUR

IT has been government policy, for better or for worse, to discriminate in favor of new immigrants when it comes to housing. Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said yesterday.

"To my sorrow - and to my delight - I must admit that we have discriminated in their favor," Ben-Eliezer told the Knesset Aliya and Absorption Committee yesterday.

He said that some 245,000 families had arrived in the country in the past five years and more than 100,000 mortgages had been given to immigrant families during that period. Some 120,000 families have also received rent subsidies.

"Not every immigrant has a house yet but no one is in the street," Ben-Eliezer said.

He said that government measures to bring down the prices of land and apartments were beginning to bear fruit.

Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman (Labor) asked if it would be possible to increase the size of mortgages. The assistance immi-

grants receive decreases from year to year, he pointed out. To this, Ben-Eliezer responded that increased mortgages would cause home prices to rise further.

Zissman said that, alongside the successes, it was important to remember that there were still 35,000 immigrants without proper housing solutions.

MK Benny Temkin proposed that the government build more public housing. He suggested funding the construction "from the taxes on the stock exchange."

"Will the government continue to give the Ethiopian immigrants special assistance?" asked Addisu Messale, head of the United Ethiopian Organizations in Israel.

"We'll continue to help them," Ben-Eliezer responded.

Despite dire predictions about aliyah dropping this year, the 8,100 immigrants that arrived in October represented an increase over October 1993. Absorption Ministry Director-General Ephraim Cohen told the committee.

The Seminary of Judaic Studies

welcomes members of the International Board of Overseers and wishes them success in their deliberations.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY SUPPLEMENT

On December 9, The Jerusalem Post will be publishing a special supplement on Alternative Medicine and Natural Beauty Cosmetology.

Companies or individuals who wish to advertise in the supplement should contact Smadar Ratinsky, Tel. 03-6390333, Fax. 03-6390277.



Fred Rosner, M.D. Editor: Hemorrhoids, Cohabitation

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Republicans confident of controlling Senate

DAVID BRISCOE
WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS campaigned on election eve Monday with growing confidence they can take control of the US Senate and possibly the House, while President Clinton and Democrats focused on tight races and the number of voters who turn out.

Clinton, who has been an issue but not a candidate in the midterm election, was ending eight days of intense campaigning with stops in three states to boost Democrats in close Senate races.

Administration officials insisted that Clinton's approval Sunday of the withdrawal of nearly half the 15,000 US troops from Haiti by December 1 was not a political act.

But the move underscores one of several recent foreign policy successes that have boosted Clinton's viability as a campaigner for at least some beleaguered Democrats.

Republican House leader Newt Gingrich, hoping to become the first Republican speaker of the House in 40 years if his party gains control, said Republicans would gain 30 to 75 seats in the House.

Gingrich himself was in a tighter race than he expected against former Democratic congressman and actor Ben Jones. After traveling the country for other candidates, Gingrich stayed in his district over the weekend to campaign.

Faced with the prospect of a Republican Congress rejecting his programs for the next two years and a throng of Republican governors poised to guide campaigns against his re-election in 1996, Clinton has almost as much to lose in a Republican sweep as his party's candidates.

Democrats were hoping for a rebound in the final hours before the vote but both sides expect a more-conservative, more-Republican Congress. The vote will decide 35 of 100 Senate seats and all 435 House seats, as well as 36 of the 50 governorships.

A nationwide Times Mirror poll released Sunday raised a glimmer of hope for Democrats amid predictions of big losses. It showed more elderly voters turning toward Democrats than a similar survey 10 days earlier. It also showed more support for incumbents and a shift toward Democrats among groups that traditionally support Republicans.

Republicans still were running well ahead in many key races and remained ahead in terms of party preference in races for seats in the House, dominated by Democrats in recent years.

An extraordinary number of races were still neck and neck, including a handful of pivotal ones

in the Senate, a few dozen House races and several of the governorship contests.

"The whole effort now is the turnout," said Jeb Bush of Florida, one of two sons of former President George Bush vying to govern US states. Brother George W. is running in Texas.

But Democrats who were most concerned about turnout, since in the country as a whole there are more registered Democratic voters than Republicans.

"Everywhere you look there are razor-close contests," said Democratic National Committee Chairman David Wilhelm, who raised an additional \$100,000 for Texas and nearly half that for Michigan over the weekend for get-out-the-vote efforts.

"Turnout is going to tell the tale," Wilhelm said.

Key Democratic lawmakers, including Speaker of the House Thomas Foley of Washington state and veteran senators Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts and James Sasser of Tennessee, faced tough re-election contests.

Overall most incumbents in both parties were expected to win, despite a perception of widespread voter anger with Washington, with Clinton's domestic failures and with politics in general.

The real losses for Democrats were likely to come in the record numbers of open seats formerly held by the party, where incumbents had already bowed out.

On the last day, Clinton was campaigning for three Democratic newcomers defying the odds in Senate races: Ann Wynn in Minnesota, Bob Carr in Michigan and Charles Oberly in Delaware.

Clinton was already anticipating the tough Congress he is likely to face next year.

In an interview on CNN's *Larry King Live*, he looked past today's voting and said, "I want more than anything to have a bipartisan effort."

If Clinton had the most to lose today, a Republican who was not a candidate may have the most to gain — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole.

Dole predicted he would be Senate majority leader, and was already pledging cooperation rather than confrontation with the president. He said his first call after the returns are in would be to make that promise to Clinton.

For Dole to place that call, Republicans need a net gain of seven seats. They appeared on track for at least four — in Arizona, Ohio, Maine and Tennessee. Several other races were tossups.

Carr was behind Republican Spencer Abraham in the Michigan



US President Bill Clinton holds a baby during a campaign rally in Seattle yesterday. (Reuters)

race, but hoping Clinton's third visit would turn the tide.

• Pennsylvania Democratic Sen. Harris Wofford was in a tight race with Republican Rep. Rick Santorum, with both sides claiming a tiny lead.

• Wynn trailed Rep. Rod Grams in Minnesota, but had a rare Democratic opportunity to capture a seat now in Republican hands.

• Riding an anti-Clinton mood in Oklahoma, Republican Rep. Jim Inhofe led Democratic Rep. Dave McCurdy for the seat of retiring Democrat David Boren.

• Democrat Charles Robb held a narrow late lead in Virginia against Republican Oliver North and independent Marshall Coleman.

"The state that gave the nation

George Washington, who could not tell a lie, will not elect Oliver North, who cannot tell the truth," said Robb, working in one more poke at his rival's Iran-Contra dealings.

But North predicted victory, and Dole was campaigned with him Sunday, describing the race as the one that could give Republicans a Senate majority. (AP)

Highlights of key ballot propositions

HIGHLIGHTS among the 238 issues on statewide ballots in 37 states and the District of Columbia and thousands locally that voters decide today:

• **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS:** California, bar illegal immigrants from schools, social services and non-emergency medical care, require police, health and school officials to report suspected illegal aliens.

• **SUICIDE:** Oregon, allow terminally ill to get lethal medication.

• **TERM LIMITS:** Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah, Washington, DC, Spokane, Wash.

• **GAMBLING:** Casino measures in Florida, Colorado, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Navajo reservation, Wyoming; slot machines in Colorado airports, on Missouri riverboats; New Mexico state lottery and video gambling.

• **CRIME:** California, 25 years-to-life for three-time felons; Georgia, life for two-time violent felons; Oregon, stiffer penalties for violent crimes; Ohio, skip appeals court in death penalty cases; victims rights in Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Maryland, Ohio, Utah; handgun ban in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Wis.

• **TAXES:** Tax measures in 14 states. Oregon, Missouri and Montana would subject tax proposals to public vote; Montana and Nevada would require two-thirds legislative approval for tax hike; Massachusetts, graduated income tax; Oklahoma, penny tax on entertainment for breast cancer research, screening; Arizona, Colorado, tobacco tax hikes to finance health care for the poor, anti-smoking programs, research on tobacco-related illnesses.

• **ANTI-GAY RIGHTS:** Idaho, Oregon, bar gay-rights laws, school programs that suggest homosexuality is acceptable, require libraries to keep books about homosexuality from minors; Alachua County, Florida, repeal of gay rights ordinance, bar any in future.

• **OBSCENITY:** Oregon, Colorado, adopt US Supreme Court definition of obscenity, which relies on community standards.

• **CAMPAIGN REFORM:** Massachusetts, ban corporate spending on public referendum campaigns; Oregon, cap campaign contributions at \$500 for statewide offices, \$100 for lawmakers, bar contributions outside candidates' districts; Colorado, cap campaign contributions at \$100 for lawmakers, \$500 for gubernatorial candi-

dates and require candidates to raise at least 60 percent of their money from individuals.

• **ABORTION:** Wyoming measure seeks to ban abortion except in cases of rape, incest or to save the woman's life.

• **HEALTH CARE:** California single-payer plan for government-run health coverage.

• **SEAT BELTS:** Challenges to mandatory seat belt laws in Massachusetts, North Dakota and South Dakota.

• **SMOKING:** California, relax recently enacted ban on workplace smoking, pre-empt tougher local ordinances and prevent any in future.

• **ENVIRONMENT:** California, 4 percent gasoline sales tax to expand railroads and mass transit; Florida, ban on most net fishing near the Florida shore, a ban on leghold traps, poisons and snares when hunting wildlife on Arizona public lands and, for Oregon, a ban on using dogs to hunt bears and cougars.

• **LANGUAGE:** Vermont constitution rewritten to be gender-neutral; ridding West Virginia constitution of ban on integrated schools.

• **DENTURES:** Washington, allow denture makers to sell dentures without dentist.

• **LOITERING:** San Francisco ban on daytime lying or sitting on sidewalks.

• **MOVING:** Alaska, moving state capital from Juneau to Wasilla. (AP)

Voting percentage in midterm polls

THE percentage of voting age population that has voted in midterm elections over the years since 1950. Participation averages about 15 percent higher in presidential election years:

1990	36.5 percent
1986	36.3 percent
1982	40.5 percent
1978	37.3 percent
1974	38.3 percent
1970	46.8 percent
1966	48.4 percent
1962	47.5 percent
1958	44.5 percent
1954	43.1 percent
1950	42.6 percent

Source: Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, which provided these figures. (AP)

'Beirut defense' being used in bridge shooting case

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

ALTHOUGH Rashid Baz left Beirut a decade ago, the Lebanese capital is at the heart of the defense for the man charged with shooting Lubavitch students on the Brooklyn Bridge last March.

Baz, 28, went on trial last week in New York, charged with murder, attempted murder and weapons possession. His attorney, Eric Sears, contends his client was not mentally responsible. As a "traumatized, teenage war veteran," Sears said, Baz suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

"Eighteen years in Beirut left scars on his personality," Sears said as the trial got under way in State Supreme Court in Manhattan.

In the US, Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome is generally associated with combat veterans of the Vietnam war. Some observers say Sears is taking advantage of psychiatry by using this defense.

A New York psychiatrist who is an expert on psychiatric-legal issues, Dr. Samuel Klagsbrun, said the Baz defense is "a blatant exploitation of a psychiatric syndrome and it's disgusting."

Psychiatric knowledge is misused as a way of absolving people of responsibility for their actions, Klagsbrun said.

One youth, Aaron Halberstam, died and three others were wounded when their van

was sprayed with gunfire. The students were returning to Brooklyn from the Manhattan hospital where they had been praying for the ailing Lubavitcher rebbe.

Baz admitted to police that he fired on the van, which was carrying more than a dozen hassidic yeshiva students.

Although the victims were identifiably Jewish, Sears would not specify how this may have affected Baz. "The way we see the case is the coming-together of circumstances going into the mix of making someone of this background react in a certain way I cannot say."

"My understanding of the history is that the [Lebanese] civil war started in 1974-75, between basically Christians and Moslems. I'm not an expert in that," Sears said.

Sears said he thinks his Moslem client is Sunni, although he is not sure. Baz came to the US in 1984, two years after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

"From my point of view, what you have is a person who is exposed to a more-than-combat situation," Sears said. "It's the militia, street-to-street, house-to-house type of combat, combat that is ongoing. I see it as an issue of the effects of that background on an individual."

They may be indicted, but they're still favored

CALL them the Indicted but Still Favored Few.

Despite the antipathy toward Congress nationwide, voters in Illinois, California and Pennsylvania may well reelect three lawmakers whose ultimate fates will hang on yet another verdict.

Reps. Mel Reynolds (D-Ill.), Walter R. Tucker III (D-Calif.), and Joseph M. McDade (R-Pa.) have the unsavory distinction of being on next week's ballot while also being under indictment.

A fourth legislator under indictment, Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.), was also considered a shoo-in for reelection before a final Republican push suggested that his race may be tougher than expected.

The nature of the four congressmen's alleged crimes makes their electoral viability even more striking: Reynolds is charged with 20 counts of sexual assault, child pornography, aggravated sexual abuse of a child and obstruction of justice. Tucker was indicted on 10 counts of extortion and income tax evasion, and McDade on five counts of racketeering, conspiracy and accepting illegal gratuities. Rostenkowski, whose name has become nearly synonymous with the House Post Office scandal, faces trial on 17 counts of embezzlement, fraud and witness-tampering.

The political resilience of this bipartisan quartet illustrates a little-noticed phenomenon of this campaign: despite all the turnover expected in congress, most incumbents seeking reelection to

the House are likely to win.

A total of 44 face no major party opposition. Another 118 have opponents who had spent less than \$25,000 by mid-October in largely token campaigns. And all seven Louisiana lawmakers seeking reelection are already assured return trips to Capitol Hill because they received more than 50 percent of the vote in the state's open primary, sparing them a general-election race.

According to the parties' congressional campaign committees, the maximum number of battlegrounds this fall is only 130 to 150 seats — or about one-third of the House. This includes 28 districts held by Democrats and 17 by Republicans with no incumbent running. The other potentially competitive races involve 75 Democrats and 13 to 30 Republicans.

This means that even in such a volatile year — when voters are professed to be in a mood to "throw the bums out" — two-thirds of sitting House members appear to be coasting to victory.

The forces that have combined to keep lawmakers coming back to Washington are still very much at work, political professionals say. In addition to lopsided voting registration, these include significant incumbent fundraising advantages and other perks of incumbency, such as staff, district offices and publicly funded mail and the recognition, personal popularity and political expertise gained during years in public life.

Moreover, voters themselves have expressed a distinct ambivalence in recent years: they generally are fed up with Congress as an institution but satisfied with their own representative.

If there was ever evidence that some lawmakers simply defy opposition, it may be the four indicted incumbents on whom voters will pass judgment today. All four have pleaded not guilty and are awaiting trial.

Such circumstances are hardly unique in the annals of American history. More than 90 members of Congress have been indicted and many sought reelection with charges pending. In nearly a third of such cases, the charges were dropped or the lawmakers were acquitted.

Rostenkowski, who is seeking a 19th term, is charged with diverting \$636,600 in federal funds and \$56,267 in campaign funds for personal use. He has strongly asserted that he is innocent. At the same time, he has reimbursed the government for \$82,000 in purchases.

After going all-out to survive a spirited primary challenge in his Democratic district, Rostenkowski was thought to be home free.

He faces a little-known and underfunded Republican opponent.

Michael Flanagan, 31, a lawyer and political novice, had spent only \$44,887 as of October 19. But after a Republican National Committee poll showed him running surprisingly ahead, the committee pumped about \$58,000 into the challenger's campaign this week, most of it

for a last-minute television ad.

Reynolds, 42, a Rhodes scholar and former professor who is accused of having sex with a 16-year-old girl two years ago, does not even face an opponent on the ballot. Carl Bibbs, a state economic development officer, is running as a write-in candidate in the Democrat-dominated district.

Reynolds, who is black, represents the mostly black, economically distressed South Side of Chicago and southern suburbs that run the gamut from working class to affluent. He ousted divisive Democratic Rep. Gus Savage in the 1992 primary.

Tucker, who was indicted by a federal grand jury in September for accepting \$30,000 in bribes as mayor of Compton, also has no GOP opponent. In a district where 77 percent of registered voters are Democrats.

McDade is seeking a 17th term despite his 1992 indictment for accepting \$100,000 in bribes and illegal gratuities — from defense contractors and lobbyists. He has responded that the prosecutor was politically motivated, that he was unaware of any illegal contributions and that he reimbursed donors for any questionable expenditures.

The ranking Republican on the Appropriations Committee, McDade has ingratiated himself with his economically embattled constituents by steering so much federal largess to his northeastern Pennsylvania district that one pundit dubbed it "McDadeland."

Los Angeles Times

Experts divided whether Simpson jury is good for the defense

JOSEPH DEMMA
LOS ANGELES

THE jury empaneled to try O.J. Simpson on two counts of murder was being touted by some legal analysts as a defense attorney's dream team.

Some experts said the selections give the Simpson defense an immediate leg up on the prosecution because its eight black members are more likely to identify with Simpson and, according to recent public opinion polls, more likely to mistrust the police.

But one prominent California trial lawyer sees a majority of blacks as a positive indicator for the prosecution, and another believes that the presence of six black women on the jury could have a backlash effect on the former football star.

The jury includes eight blacks,

one white, two Latinos and one man who identified himself as American Indian/Caucasian. There are eight women and four men, ranging in age from 22 to 52.

Stephen Scaring, a prominent Nassau County, N.Y., defense lawyer, agrees with the popular opinion that the racial makeup of the jury makes it less likely to convict Simpson.

Scaring also points out that the jury as a whole is working class and most of its members are not highly educated. "If I were working for O.J. Simpson, I would want this jury," he said. "The prosecution's case is fairly sophisticated. If I were the prosecution, I would have wanted very bright people — high education, good jobs, complex kinds of jobs to deal with the complexities of the evidence."

But Harland Braun, a prominent Los Angeles trial lawyer, disagrees. "I'm sort of a contrarian,"

he said. "I think it assists the prosecution to have a lot of blacks" on the jury. He said that if there were just a few blacks on the jury, they would have risked being polarized against the others, but because they are a majority, "Then the spotlight is on you: 'Are we going to look like a bunch of nincompoops or are we going to look reasonable?'"

John Burris, a well-known trial lawyer from Oakland, Calif., disagrees with that notion. He believes the blacks may be "more amenable to much of the defendant's arguments about sloppiness of the police work, misconduct, maybe more than one person did it."

The presence of six black women on the jury, Burris said, poses the danger of a backlash because of Simpson's interracial marriage and a feeling that "he abandoned the black community." *Newsday*

A close look at the 12 jurors who will decide OJ's fate

• A 50-year-old divorced black woman who works for Los Angeles County as a supervisor in an accounting office. She said she respects him "as an individual based on his past accomplishments" and had a "sick feeling" in her stomach when she heard he was a suspect in the slayings.

• A 25-year-old black woman who is a flight attendant. Single, her brother is an officer with the California Highway Patrol. She said she saw Simpson in the films "Roots" and "Naked Gun" and "he seemed like he would have a good sense of humor."

• A 52-year-old American Indian/Caucasian man who teaches high school vocational classes. He said when he was 7, he saw, "My dad hit my mom once — I was scared."

• A 32-year-old half Latino, half black single man who delivers soft drinks. He said Simpson was "a great football player." His first

reaction to hearing that Simpson was a suspect: "How could a man who had it all be a suspect?"

• A 37-year-old married black woman in private business. She said she had "no feelings toward Mr. Simpson" and described the June 17 slow-speed chase, which ended in Simpson's arrest, as "stupid."

• A 48-year-old single black man who has worked for the Herz Corp. for 25 years. He said he "just didn't believe" that Simpson was charged with the murders.

• A 38-year-old married black woman who works with at-risk youth and has referred domestic violence victims to other agencies.

• A 38-year-old single black woman who described her occupation as an environmental health specialist. She thinks that Nicole Simpson was "a victim of a vicious crime."

• A 52-year-old divorced black woman who works as a clerk. She described Simpson as "only human."

• A 38-year-old single Latina woman employed as a letter carrier. She said she suffered verbal and mental abuse from an ex-boyfriend.

• A 46-year-old married black man who works as a courier. Originally he said he thought Simpson had to prove his innocence but later changed his mind. His brother works for the San Francisco 49ers, a team that Simpson once played for.

• A 22-year-old white single woman who handles insurance claims. She said she was shocked when she heard Simpson was a suspect in the murders. She thinks that Nicole Simpson "appeared to be a good mother to her children and the wife of a celebrity."

Newsday

War-crimes tribunal issues first indictment

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The commander of a Serb-run prison camp accused of killing eight Bosnian Muslims and torturing others was indicted yesterday by the first international war-crimes tribunal since Nuremberg.

The Yugoslav War-Crimes Tribunal issued a warrant for the arrest of Dragan Nikolic, who is believed to be somewhere in Bosnia. But it is unlikely Bosnian Serbs will turn him over to stand trial.

The indictment was the first handed down by the tribunal.

Nikolic commanded the Susica Camp, which was set up by Bosnian Serb forces after they took over Vlasenica on April 21, 1992. Up to 8,000 Muslims are believed to have passed through the camp until it was closed in September 1992.

The indictment accuses Nikolic of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It accused him of killing eight Muslim detainees and torturing or abusing seven others. It said he was responsible for plunder, illegal imprisonment of more than 500 Bosnian Muslims, and illegal deportations of others.

The deportation charge refers to the practice of so-called ethnic cleansing, when Serbs, Croats or Muslims drove other ethnic groups out of territory they controlled.

The tribunal sent the warrant to the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale, although it did not disclose his nationality.

The indictment came on the eve of the tribunal's first hearing, which will focus on getting jurisdiction of a torture-murder case against Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb in German custody.

Tadic has been one of the most notorious war-crimes suspects since being fingered by Bosnian Muslims in a German refugee center last February.

Germany already has drafted a law allowing it to hand over war-crimes suspects to the three-judge tribunal. But his trial is not expected until March at the earliest.

The tribunal is being compared to the Nuremberg and Tokyo war-crimes courts, but faces hurdles that never confronted the victorious Allies in World War II.

The four-judge panel at Nuremberg convicted 19 of its 24 Nazi defendants, sentencing 12 to death.

Tokyo's 11-judge panel sentenced seven Japanese war criminals to death, jailed 16 for life and gave shorter prison terms to two others.

The Hague Tribunal set up by the Security Council wants to try suspects who for the most part are protected by Bosnia's warring parties.

The bulk of the war crimes committed since war broke out in Bosnia 31 months ago have been blamed on ethnic Serbs.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic have both been named by the United States as possible war criminals.

Notorious neo-Nazi goes on trial

MUNICH

(AP) — Germany's most infamous neo-Nazi went on trial yesterday for making documentary videos that glorify Adolf Hitler, insult Jews and are intended to give youths a fascist indoctrination.

Ewald Althaus, who is charged with denying the Holocaust and inciting racism, admitted in the Munich state court to having directed videos in which Hitler speeches and interviews with modern-day extremists are spliced together.

The 28-year-old Althaus said he had planned to set up a "history video rental." His cassettes have been sold at neo-Nazi gatherings, according to prosecutor Werner Fuegemann.

Among those appearing in the videos are Fred Leuchter of Malden, Massachusetts, who builds electric chairs and lethal injection devices; and Ernst Zuendel, a German extremist living in Canada.

Leuchter and Zuendel insist the Holocaust, in which the Nazis killed 6 million Jews, was a hoax.

While admitting making the films, Althaus said it was "not

right that I'm sitting here" in the defendant's dock. Althaus said he had only documented what other people believed.

Fuegemann said that Nazi swastikas are shown in the videos, which have titles like *Acquittal For Hitler and 40 Years Of Lying*.

In addition, Fuegemann charged, for years Althaus has been illegally copying and distributing antisemitic films produced during the Nazi era.

Althaus doesn't just distribute movies. He also stars in one, a documentary about his life called *Career: Neo-Nazi*.

The documentary's leftist distributors said the film was intended to expose the neo-Nazis. Critics charged that because the documentary lacks commentary, young neo-Nazis could be encouraged by it.

Many movie theaters refused to show the film. Others showed it in a double bill with a gruesome documentary filmed in the concentration camps after the war.

A Berlin court is trying Althaus separately for statements he made in *Career: Neo-Nazi*.

Italian storm toll soars to 59 dead

State TV reports 'cataclysm' in Piedmont region

CRISPAN BALMER

ALESSANDRIA, Italy

THE death toll from devastating rains in northern Italy soared to 59 yesterday as exhausted rescue workers recovered more bodies from a sea of mud and debris, emergency services said.

State television, in a report that spoke of a "cataclysm" in the northwest Piedmont region, put the number of people killed at almost 100.

It said 5,000 people were homeless, 500,000 hectares (1.2 million acres) of land were under water and 10 districts still cut off four days after the first rains fell.

The latest official toll, up from 45 earlier, was announced by civil protection headquarters in Rome as an outcry mounted over whether authorities had reacted fast enough to what

one minister called a "mega-disaster."

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, touring the stricken region, was jeered by angry residents in the flood-hit town of Alba after hearing bitter criticism from local councillors and businessmen over the speed of relief work.

"That's enough," an angry Berlusconi told the critics. "Let's stop arguing and get down to work and sort out who may be responsible later."

Berlusconi was to chair an emergency cabinet meeting this morning to draw up special measures for Piedmont, where scores of towns and villages were without power and

estimated 60cm (two feet) of water on Piedmont in as many hours, turning rivers into raging torrents.

The force of the water demolished bridges, swept away cars like matchboxes, uprooted rail lines and triggered landslides that buried homes under avalanches of mud and rock.

Civil protection officials said 57 of the known dead were in Piedmont, including 28 in the region of Cuneo, where many of the victims were trapped in their cars and drowned.

The other two flood-related deaths were in the Venice area on the northeast coast. High water flooded parts of the historic la-

goon city, including St Mark's Square, yesterday but local officials said the situation was not serious.

Relief coordinators also reported 25 people missing, 23 in Piedmont and two in the town of Pavia in the Lombardy region where the Po reached its highest level since 1951.

Figures compiled locally in Piedmontese towns for the number of missing were far higher.

The Piedmont storms were the worst in the region since 1913.

"The situation is horrendous wherever you go. Seen from the sky it's terrifying," European Affairs Minister Domenico Comino said after a helicopter flight over the disaster zone.

Croats, Moslems pound Serbs by Kupres

KUPRES, Bosnia (Reuters) — Bosnian Muslim and Croat forces poured rocket, tank and artillery fire on Serb positions north of Kupres yesterday, continuing their recent offensive momentum in central Bosnia, eyewitnesses said.

"It's a good situation for us and we're still on the offensive," General Mehmet Alagic, commander of the Bosnian army Seventh Corps said of the artillery barrage yesterday.

"We're in a very strong position now around Kupres."

Alagic's men captured the town on Thursday in the first major victory for the now reorganized and Croat-supplied government forces in 31 months of war.

Reporters trekked through fog and drizzle to the top of a ridge-line towering over Kupres and commanding the plains to the north, which government troops must cross to get to their next objective, the Serb-held town of Donji Vakuf.

Climbing through pine forest, past pre-war hunting blinds and log fortifications built by Bosnian Serbs but now occupied by government troops, reporters were warned artillery fire would commence as soon as the fog lifted.

As if on cue, the wind picked up, the fog cleared and Muslim and Croat artillerymen went into action.

Howitzers and mortars opened fire from a sand quarry north of the ridge, muzzle flashes visible long before the boom of the barrage reached the ridge line.

Two Croat tanks roared north out of Kupres followed by an ammunition truck and a command vehicle and took up positions in a nest of destroyed houses in the village of Osmanlije.



Police use truncheons to hold back anti-communist demonstrators who try to disrupt a Communist march in Kiev yesterday. (AP)

Anti-Communists clash with Kiev police

KIEV (AP) — Truncheon-wielding police and nationalists armed with flag poles clashed yesterday when the demonstrators tried to disrupt a Communist rally marking the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

Rallies celebrating the revolution's 77th anniversary were held across Russia, Ukraine's mighty eastern neighbor.

In Kiev, more than 10 protesters were detained and several people on both sides emerged from the clash bloody and bruised, said police spokesman Ivan Levchenko.

The main confrontation took place near a statue of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin, where some 8,000 Communists were heading.

Police held back thousands

of nationalists trying to block them.

Jeering crowds waving sky-blue and yellow Ukrainian flags taunted the Communists. "We want to show these murderers that today should be the day of mourning for the victims of Communism," said Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the nationalist Rukh party.

The Communists finished their march under the protection of several thousand police, but canceled plans for speeches and songs at the foot of the Lenin statue. They laid wreaths, then quickly dispersed.

The Communist Party is Ukraine's largest political party and it had planned to use the rally to protest President Leonid Kuchma's new plans for market reforms.

In Moscow, thousands of hard-liners waving red Soviet flags and portraits of Lenin marched to the former KGB headquarters, chanting: "Out with the presidential throne!" and "Yeltsin is a drunk pig!"

Demonstrations were reported in at least two dozen other Russian towns, with crowds ranging from several hundred to several thousand, most them nostalgic pensioners. Protesters called for strikes and shouted slogans against President Boris Yeltsin's government.

In St. Petersburg, nearly 6,000 people marched peacefully along the Nevsky Prospect, shouting "Down with Yeltsin!" and "All power to the Soviets!"

The Moscow rally began beneath a large statue of Lenin at

October Square and continued on to Lubyanka Square.

"The time for revolution is now. We must not wait!" said Vladimir Lypov, a 19-year-old student who was among a motley group of so-called Young Guard troops. "But this time we'll do it right."

Although Revolution Day is a state holiday, Yeltsin made a point of reporting to work at his Kremlin office as usual. Most Muscovites simply enjoyed the clear weather.

"They have nothing better to do," said Konstantin Terlitsky, who was trying to jog past the demonstrators in his track suit. "I don't support Yeltsin either, but the Soviets don't have the answer. What do they want, more pain?"

Rakhmonov elected Tajik president

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) — Tajik leader Emomali Rakhmonov was declared the winner of this Central Asian nation's presidential election yesterday over a challenger who accused him of fraud and intimidation.

Rakhmonov won with 60 percent of the vote in an election that attracted 90 percent of the voters in this impoverished, war-torn nation, the Central Elections Committee said.

His only challenger, Tajik ambassador to Moscow Abdulmalik Abdulladjanov, got 35 percent of the vote, said Election Committee Chairman Kadrigin Niyazov.

Abdulladjanov's campaign headquarters issued a statement alleging voter intimidation and widespread fraud in Sunday's balloting.

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The Rabin-Arafat meeting

MEETINGS between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat have become routine, and the meeting scheduled for today has hardly made a ripple in the media. But the future of the relationship between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho will be greatly affected by this meeting's outcome.

In his rage following the terrorist attack on the Tel Aviv bus last month, Rabin spoke of separation between Palestinians and Israelis. He announced an unlimited closure on the territories and a halt to all movement of Arab laborers into Green-Line Israel. And he promised a war to the death against Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the two Islamic organizations responsible for terrorist hits against Israelis in the past six months.

But reality soon dictated a modification of these measures. Fearing that a continued closure would create a powder keg in the territories, and realizing that, in any case, the borders could not be hermetically sealed, the government lifted the closure. The movement of workers has resumed, albeit gradually.

Nor have the threats of mass arrests, deportations and liquidations materialized. True, some leading Hamas operatives have been detained, and some have gone underground, but no spectacular action has been taken. The only exception is the assassination of arch-terrorist Hani Abed of the Islamic Jihad, though it is not yet clear who committed it.

Nor has Arafat, despite his censure of the Tel Aviv bombing, done anything against the Islamic terrorists who openly carry arms in Gaza, nor has he acted against the PLO radicals who have ignored the cease-fire his own Fatah faction has been observing. "The usual suspects," ostentatiously arrested by the Palestinian Police after the bombing, have almost all been released.

Government doves are urging Rabin not to press Arafat to subdue the Islamic extremists. Such an attempt, if it could be mounted at all, will

only cause civil war and undermine Arafat's position, they say. The movement of laborers into the territories should not only resume, but increase. Otherwise, economic conditions will make Arafat's position untenable.

Above all, the doves believe that Arafat must show gains to retain his position of leadership. He must return from the meeting with progress on Israeli withdrawal, further empowerment of the PA in Judea and Samaria, and an agreement on elections in these areas.

What worries these doves is that the socio-economic situation in Gaza has deteriorated precipitously since the PA took over. As a veteran PLO supporter put it in *Ha'aretz* on Sunday, there is sweeping despair in the territories. "Even the worst days of the occupation and the most bitter days of the intifada seem to many Palestinians as better than today."

But it is questionable indeed if an immediate return to massive employment of Gazans in Israel, even if economically feasible, will make more than a temporary and relatively insignificant difference. Nor is it likely that Rabin can risk the security of Israel by allowing a large daily influx of Palestinian laborers.

The oft-suggested nostrum is huge foreign investments in the territories. But the news that British development aid intended for Palestinian policemen's salaries has been used instead for Arafat's private security force, or that funds earmarked for an agricultural project have been misappropriated by a local official, do not bode well. Governments can make extravagant promises of aid and investment, but no one will put money endlessly into a corrupt swamp.

If there is any hope for the future of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza as a viable and unthreatening neighbor of Israel, it is in the development of a responsible, democratic government there. Such a development is most unlikely if Israel continues to bolster the hopelessly corrupt Arafat regime.

Ben Gurion's army

A major achievement of Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, was the depoliticizing of the army. Decreeing that none of the separate (and often rival) entities which made up the underground resistance against the British should remain, he forced both the left-wing Palmah and the right-wing IZL and Lehi to merge into the IDF. Ben-Gurion understood that Israel could face neither the formidable challenges of the war of independence nor the defense of the country in subsequent years if its army consisted of politicized factions.

His own insight notwithstanding, it took the army a long time to be totally devoid of politics. The underground movements were indeed disbanded, but promotions and privileges were for a long time reserved for officers known for their "correct" political thinking and background. Only in the 1960s, with the entry of a new generation into the ranks, did the army become truly apolitical.

Now, with the nation polarized almost as acutely as it was in pre-state days, there are worrisome signs of regression. On Sunday, one of the country's foremost Arabists, Dr. Yossi Olmert, a former director of the Government Press Office, publicly complained that he is being prevented from lecturing to soldiers because he is identified with the political Right. He cited several instances in which his lectures were canceled at the last minute. The reason, he was told, was that he was "politically identified."

What makes this particularly strange is that in his writings and public utterances Olmert is a remarkably moderate voice, who consistently advocates a compromising line in negotiations with Syria and Lebanon - his particular field of expertise. His only crime seems to be that he was once a Likud government appointee.

Needless to say, not only Labor-affiliated lecturers, but known radicals and extremists on the political left have been lecturing freely and abundantly in army colleges and seminars. But all that is irrelevant. To impugn the integrity of a prominent and internationally respected scholar because of an alleged political affiliation is indeed, as Olmert put it, blatant McCarthyism.

The army has not denied any of Olmert's specific charges. The IDF Spokesman simply responded that Olmert was employed in the past as a lecturer, and will be in the future.

Unfortunately, the Olmert case is not exceptional. Prominent scholars and lecturers who do not support the government agreement with the PLO or doubt the wisdom of relinquishing the Golan are finding themselves increasingly ignored by the army. With army generals now serving as the country's main negotiators, with army officers on active duty openly endorsing government policies, and with "politically incorrect" voices barred from the army's lecture halls, one can only hope that the party founded by Ben-Gurion will not be the one to wreck his vision of an apolitical IDF.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JEWISH UNITY

Sir, - I read the Josef Burg column of October 24 about Shulamit Aloni's speech at Hebrew Union College with the greatest interest. I have my doubts about the wisdom of using the term antisemitism, but I bow to his superior judgment.

What I really want to bring out is that both Ms. Aloni and Mr. Burg fail to mention the real reasons for the alienation of the general public from the religious establishment. These are two:

1. The constant striving by the religious parties to force the general public to live by their extremist outlook on life - such as dietary laws and their way of keeping the sabbath and holidays - whereas the general public would not think of forcing its outlook on the believing public. It is a matter

of "live and let live," but it has to become mutual. Otherwise there will never be an end to resentment of the religious sector, typified by attacks such as Ms. Aloni's, and the unity so advocated by Mr. Burg will never come about.

2. The adoption by successive Israeli governments of the Orthodox position and their giving it the sole religious standing in the country. There is therefore no room here for such successful movements as the Conservative and Reform, which in turn breeds serious resentment by those who may not be entirely free thinkers but yet refuse to accept the Orthodox outlook.

MAURICE A. HARTOG
Haifa.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

Sir, - The Israeli government's decision to send police to Haiti at a time when it cannot protect its own citizens in its own capital is indicative of its leaders' grossly misplaced priorities.

On the day the names of the Nobel Peace Prize winners were leaked, we learned that the terrorist attack on Jerusalem cafe patrons was carried out by an Arafat policeman and a Hamas criminal who was released by Rabin pursuant to the grotesquely misnamed peace process. No doubt the weapons used were furnished by Israel to the PLO police pursuant to the current Israeli policy of arming

mortal enemies in the misguided belief that it will somehow enhance Israeli security.

Now that Messrs. Rabin and Peres have received their blood money from Oslo for their sell-out of Israel pursuant to the perfidious Oslo Accord and have forever linked their names to Yasser Arafat, the greatest serial killer of Jews since Adolf Hitler, they should do Israel a favor and resign. Israel deserves leaders who care more about the fate of the nation and the well-being of its people than about their own self-aggrandizement.

JEFFREY SEGALL
Leonia, New Jersey.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Sir, - The recent jailing and interrogation of Anat Cohen, the nursing mother of a two-month-old infant, supplied B'tselem, the self-styled "human rights" organization, with a golden opportunity to prove that it indeed defends human rights rather than merely serving a political auxiliary for the PLO. This would be fulfilling a commitment made by Gila Svirsky of B'tselem in a letter to the *Post*, last year: "Should the government of Israel take measures that are fundamental violations of human rights of the Jewish population in the occupied territories, B'tselem would be the first to raise its voice in protest."

We thought that the case of Anat Cohen would fit the bill. We are still waiting to hear their voice, usually so loud, if not surd, when Arab rights are concerned.

MRS. D. S. KONIGSBERG
Jerusalem.

PARTIAL STANDSTILL

Sir, - Perhaps someone can explain to me why President Clinton felt it necessary to bring the country to a partial standstill by using a motorcade 100 cars long to travel from Ben-Gurion Airport to Jerusalem and back again on closed roads, when a few minutes in a helicopter would have served the same purpose and with a lot less inconvenience to all concerned?

JONATHAN GOLDMAN
Ramat Gan.

Bright, but a bumbler

AMOS PERLMUTTER

AS a candidate, Bill Clinton was aggressive, precise, combative and direct on foreign policy. But his campaign rhetoric eventually turned into a foreign policy fiasco.

In Bosnia, Clinton relentlessly threatened to punish and move militarily against the Bosnian Serbs without ever really doing so, or accomplishing any meaningful goals.

Even now, with the US, Germany, Great Britain, France and Russia having managed to isolate the Bosnian Serbs from their Greater Serbia protectors, the killing and violence continues. Successive American-European and UN plans to halt the carnage and create a settlement, from the Vance-Owen Plan to the Five Power Plan, collapsed. All came to naught.

Clinton must take some of the responsibility for the continued violence. He teased the Bosnian Moslems into thinking that the arms embargo against combatants would be lifted, giving them a chance to fight on a more level playing field, and encouraging them to drag their feet on negotiations leading to a settlement. This could result in the creation of the first Moslem state in Europe since 1452.

These unfulfilled promises, which had the net result of angering both Serbs and Moslems, all but destroyed Clinton's Bosnian credibility.

In January, when he attended the NATO summit, Clinton failed to establish a US-European-UN joint policy on Bosnia. He vaguely threatened to use the moribund NATO to "scare" Bosnia, using Seventh Fleet bombs, which missed their targets and failed to do serious damage.

There was a hope that the democratization of Central Europe would play a role in the control of nuclear proliferation, that Clinton would give the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty teeth in the form of heavy sanctions against violators. But this, too, did not occur.

The major problem isn't only Clinton's indecisiveness, but the *Bonn* government's failure to adhere to the president's NPT demands.

The US, under Reagan and Bush, appeared to have encouraged plutoni-

um use in Britain, France, Japan, Switzerland and Germany, a trend Clinton has been unable to halt. Nuclear proliferation continues, along with technology transfer and the export of fissionable material and atomic equipment.

Clinton saw this as a clever way to forestall Russian membership in NATO, hoping to satisfy President Boris Yeltsin, who was under tremendous pressure from the leaders of his military.

The message was clear: a cooperative, democratic Russia would also eventually join the Partnership for Peace, whose members are currently the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. A *New York Times* reporter wrote after these moves, on January 10, "This is a president who likes to have things both ways."

Clinton's foreign policy isn't much to write home about

Having denied the Eastern European full partnership in NATO, Clinton left President Havel of the Czech Republic, saying, "Just be patient, and you'll get what you want."

SENATOR Sam Nunn, powerful chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, noted at the time: "The day NATO takes in Russia as a member will be the day when NATO is no longer needed as a threat-based security alliance." (*Washington Post*, December 26, 1993.)

That day actually arrived last month, when Yeltsin ceremoniously joined the Partnership for Peace and rendered NATO futile.

Russian entry into the Partnership for Peace was disquieting, especially to Poland, which is traditionally suspicious of Russia, and feared a new alliance on NATO's doorstep. According to Adrian Karamnycky,

writing in the *New York Times* on August 30, in recent weeks Russia and other former Soviet republics such as the Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus have begun to press for the creation of a military alliance that all but mocks Clinton's Partnership for Peace.

This new development is exactly the sort of thing the Partnership for Peace was created to avoid: the division of Europe into eastern and western blocs. This is a disturbing development, even with Russia's foreign policy in the hands of the reformists.

What would it mean if, tomorrow, the leadership of Russia fell to anti-Western forces, including, perhaps, the intolerable Vladimir Zhirinovskiy? In point of fact, the reactionary Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov has called for the formation of a military dictatorship, an anti-reformist, anti-Western alliance.

And what about the Middle East? Here, Clinton has done some effective good, with the Arab-Israeli conflict, for example. But, clearly, it was the Rabin government that provided the aggressive impetus toward peace.

True, without American economic aid to Jordan and the PLO, it is doubtful that the peace momentum would maintain its force. Still, Clinton twice failed to persuade Syria's Hafez Assad to make the necessary concessions, indicating a lack of the kind of clout James Baker had with both Israel and Syria.

Although Clinton played a key role in helping to persuade King Hussein to sign a treaty, it was the acumen and skills of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres that turned the tide with both the PLO and Jordan.

Clinton has failed to define his or any sort of consistent US foreign policy. Nor has he taken command, or engaged himself in foreign policy issues confronting America in the post-Cold War era. His policies have, at best, been reactive. There is a serious gap between his rhetoric and his policy.

The writer, a political scientist, is a fellow of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center and the Begin-Sadat Center at Bar-Ilan University.

Some facts won't go away

ELYAKIM HA'ETZNI

IN tune with the spirit of the times, an Israeli "docu-drama" now being shown on Israel Television debunks old heroes and reserves new seats of honor in our national pantheon for figures that are questionable, at least by the standards of the Israel we used to know.

The *Kastner Trial* sullies the image of Hanna Szenes, who parachuted into Yugoslavia in 1944 in an attempt to rescue Jews from the clutches of Adolf Eichmann. Captured by the Hungarians, she was tortured and eventually executed. The TV film implies, without any historical grounds for doing so, that under torture Szenes informed on her fellow parachutists.

The hero of the film, in accordance with the new, "post-Zionist" stance, is Dr. Rudolf Kastner. Kastner made "arrangements" with the Nazis and saved 1,600 Jews; Hanna Szenes faced a firing squad standing upright, drawing the admiration of her tormentors for her pride and dignity, but saved no one.

In this era of accommodation, of giving up and giving in, the political and cultural parallels are too obvious not to be exploited by the professional drum-beaters.

I should like to introduce a note of dissonance - some hard facts - into this revisionist symphony.

Our Supreme Court exonerated Kastner from all allegations of collaboration with the Nazis, raised against him by Malkiel Grunwald in the 1950s.

But what about Kastner's actions after liberation?

Col. Kurt Becher was one of Hitler's closest assistants. Chief of the SS's economic staff, Becher organized the extortion of living victims, then plundered the property of the dead.

that drove Kastner to speak good of a war criminal? The motive for this has been and will remain one of the mysteries [of that period of horror].

Some time after the Supreme Court handed down its judgment, two more Kastner affidavits were discovered in the Pentagon archives. These declarations, also made after the war, saved the necks of two additional Nazi hangers-on.

One was Hermann Krumey, a principal exterminator of Polish Jewry, and the murderer of the Lidice children. Lidice was a village in Czechoslovakia, its adult inhabitants were all murdered, and the children deported to Poland, where they perished at Krumey's hands.

The other Nazi Kastner saved was SS General Hans Juttner, chief inspector of all the concentration camps.

Testifying before a District Court, Kastner said: "Wilisczyn [another Nazi] and Krumey belonged to the Kommando - Nazis who for years participated in various functions in the extermination. They were directly linked with the extermination."

In his deposition in favor of Krumey at Nuremberg, Kastner had written: "Krumey fulfilled his task with remarkable good will."

It bears repeating that these declarations on oath were made in 1947 and 1948, two and three years after the liberation. TV viewers may care to remember them as they watch the *Kastner Trial*, featuring the "heroic" doctor, this week.

A footnote: 12 years after Hermann Krumey was cleared of charges of being a war criminal as a result of Kastner's testimony, there were second thoughts in Germany. Krumey was rearrested, retried, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The writer, a lawyer and former MK, is a resident of Kiryat Arba.

Motor mutter

JERRY ZEZIMA

IF I have learned anything in nearly a quarter-century of driving, it is that no one ever has car trouble on a nice day.

While I cannot prove this (as a newspaper columnist, I am not required to prove anything), I can at least use my own horrible experiences as a barometer. Unfortunately, the barometer has fallen, and it can't get up.

That pretty much described the condition of my car when it conked out the other day. In the rain, of course.

My car, a blue 1993 model that will remain anonymous except that its name rhymes with Ford Tempo, had been acting up for a couple of weeks, sometimes refusing to start in the morning, stalling at busy intersections, and developing the automotive equivalent of a hacking cough.

Or maybe it just had gas.

The first time this happened, it was drizzling. Still, I had to get out and take a look under the hood. It was useless, not just because I got wet, but because I would have an easier time transcribing hieroglyphics than trying to determine what is going on under the hood of a car. This astonishing mechanical ignorance has earned me the well-deserved moniker of Mr. Badwrench.

Why is it no one ever has car trouble when the sun is shining?

Anyway, after a few such episodes, I called the dealership and made an appointment to bring the car in. That day, which was rainy and miserable, the car stalled three times, forcing me to get out, open the hood to see if I could detect signs of an imminent explosion and, failing to find anything, stand there and curse.

When I finally got to the dealership, I was soaked to the skin.

Bill, the very nice and very efficient service adviser (that's his title), said that whatever was wrong with the car would be covered under the warranty.

Now I must say that I like my car, which ordinarily is very reliable, and that I like Fords in general (my wife has a Taurus).

But I must also say this: I would never have had these troubles on a nice day.

EVERY FLAT tire I have ever had - and I've had plenty of them - has happened in the rain. Once, during a torrential downpour, it took me 45 minutes to change the tire because the tire iron broke.

Two days later, I got the flu.

One bitterly cold night several years ago, I was driving home from work in a snowstorm, when the fan belt broke. Or maybe it was the timing belt. All I know is that I could have used a belt.

That's because the car died. I had to walk the rest of the way (about two miles) and nearly froze to death.

Another time I totaled the worst car I ever had - the Hatchback of Notre Dame - when the brakes failed at an intersection.

Naturally, it was raining. Why does this happen? I used to think it was because my cars were used to get me. This would be perfectly understandable. After all, I have always parked them outside on the street, leaving them exposed to all kinds of nasty weather.

"Too cheap to buy a house with a garage, eh?" I can almost hear the motor mutter whenever my car breaks down, which invariably causes me to break down as well.

But I have recently suspected a heinous conspiracy in the auto industry - I'm sure Oliver Stone would back me up on this - involving something in a car's computer that causes the vehicle to stall, run over a nail in the road, or otherwise come to a grinding halt only in bad weather.

And I am happy (I think) to report that this does not just happen to me. I now realize it has been happening to other people for many years.

My parents, for instance, once bought a brand new station wagon. The next day, it broke down. The guy at the dealership - this is absolutely true - had a perfectly reasonable explanation. "It was raining," he told them.

My parents considered moving to Arizona.

Last week, one of my co-workers had car trouble.

"When was this?" I asked. "Friday night," he said. "Aha!" I chorled. "That's because it was raining."

When I went to pick up my car yesterday morning, the sun was shining brightly.

"We couldn't pinpoint the problem," said Bill, who had originally suspected something in the emissions system. "But if you have any more trouble, bring it back in."

Unfortunately, the forecast calls for rain. Maybe I should take the bus.

(Stanford Advocate)

'Faust' star plays devil's advocate for Mephisto role

HE may be an opera singer, but Monte Jaffe's attitude toward his current role could be taken from the Rolling Stones' hit *Sympathy for the Devil*. The bass-baritone plays Mephisto in the New Israeli Opera's revival of Charles Gounod's *Faust*.

"The Devil is important. He was kicked out of heaven and thus separated from nature," says Jaffe between rehearsals for the production, which is being revived for the second time since its premiere four years ago.

"The separation also alienates the devil from himself, and so in spite of his many powers he's powerless to get the glimpse of love for which he yearns."

"We've all experienced an absence of love in our life. If our life

is a success at all it's a success to the degree that we have overcome this absence. I pity the devil, his sadness is really horrible. And his greatest tragedy is that he has no passion, that he is totally dehumanized. It's not easy to witness his anguish or to participate in his loveless life. He should be admired for living like that."

Jaffe sees modern-day relevance in the opera and his character. "The kind of insanity we see in today's world, with people like Saddam Hussein and others, is similar to what happens in the opera. These people suffer from absence of love. They have no self-love and no love for life. They hide behind phony idealism and say they act for a cause. Well, so does Mephisto."

Jaffe says he's quite happy with

David Alden's somewhat modern version of *Faust*, in which he appeared in Tel Aviv two years ago.

"There's a didactic aspect to great theater and opera. There's a lesson to be taught and a comment on life. Great opera forces and inspires people to talk."

Jaffe himself is considerably less stern than the devil he portrays on stage. In fact, the 54-year-old singer is a born comedian, sharing numerous jokes - about opera, about life and about Jews - with anyone who will listen.

Behind this humorous mask one can also sense that there were times when life treated him less kindly than it does today, when he sings regularly all over the world. Jaffe grew up in Georgia and

Tennessee, where his 105-year-old grandfather still lives in perfect health.

Opera did not always take first place in his life although he recalls singing from early childhood. "I was the most hospitalized quarter-back of the year," he reminisces about one school year. But when a beautiful music teacher joined the faculty Jaffe fell in love and asked her to accompany him in a talent contest. He won the contest and then appeared weekly on television for two years in Tennessee.

At the University of Tennessee he was less into singing and more into political demonstrations. "We didn't pay much attention to college, but I do remember the demonstrations and the police."

He even sat in jail briefly after one such demonstration.

Later on he went to study at the Curtis Institute for Music in Philadelphia, but realized that "the things I was looking for in music and life were not to be found in that school." So he moved to New York where he held various jobs in social work and carpentry. He was also involved with several off-Broadway productions and considered seriously becoming a stage actor.

His life changed again when he met a beautiful Canadian woman with the very operatic name of Mimi. In order to be close to his new love Jaffe auditioned for a Russian folkloric group that was about to tour Canada. "So this is

how I got back to singing."

Today Jaffe lives in Germany with his wife and two children, three-year-old Sidney and 18-month-old Joel.

A meeting with opera coach Joan Dornemann brought the most significant career change for Jaffe. "She suggested I sing Wagner and I said to her: 'You're kidding.' I had a certain prejudice against him but I learned the aria Joan suggested and fell in love with the music." Since then he has been singing lead Wagnerian roles all over Germany and the rest of the world.

Jaffe, a former cantor, even lived in Israel for a couple of years, commuting between here and Scotland where he was singing at the time.

Although he feels really at

home only in New York and Israel, Jaffe is not a Jewish chauvinist.

"I don't feel it's productive to have groups which separate people from each other, because this means that if you belong to one group you don't belong to another."

"The beauty of the Jewish culture lies in its way of thinking and particular kind of logic. The essence of being a Jew is that you have the highest respect for life. I learned that when I was studying for my bar mitzva and I will always remember that."

The NIO production of *Faust* runs at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center until November 20. Jaffe shares the role of Mephisto with Michael Devlin, and he cannot wait to come and sing here again, a place he feels is sort of home.

Musical marchioness Sade

NEW RELEASES
TIRZAH AGASSI

THE disc cover of *The Best of Sade* (NMC), back and front, bears close-ups of singer/songwriter Sade Adu. She is minimally made up and looking so beautiful it makes one realize that, egalitarian ideals aside, some people are simply born more perfect than others.

Her singing is quite as perfect as her appearance. The same can even be said of her subtle yet powerful jazz-inflected accompaniment and of the majority of the songs in this selection.

"Smoky" and "sultry" are words commonly used to describe Sade's black pearl of a voice. It's breathy yet propelled forward from a strong diaphragm. The former art student, a half-African Londoner, is a sort of chiaroscuro Whitney Houston - with much better taste.

The 16-track album contains only three tracks from the 1984 debut album *Diamond Life* and four from *Promises* in '85. This is too bad, as these were her best albums; vivid, elegant and compassionate. By 1988's *Stronger* than *Pride*, however, I remember one critic asking if anyone else was growing tired of the sweet nothings Sade was murmuring in our ears.

I don't even remember the album. But "Love Is Stronger than Pride" and "Paradise," featured here, are both good. The first walks a fine line, maintaining dignity while revealing vulnerability. The second simply describes being in love and makes it sound good. The third choice, "Nothing Can Come Between Us," gets boring.

however, failing to repeat its one strong line - a plug for faith and trust - which could have lifted the song out of its doldrums.

Such misreading continues on 1992's *Love Deluxe*, with the fine "No Ordinary Love" taking an inexplicable 7.19 minutes to repeat its message. Nonetheless, the disc's 3 million buyers don't seem to have minded either this or the obvious rhymes of the 6.17-minute appeal for rescue. "Cherish the Day."

Luckily this recording does offer one outstanding song: "Pearls," a veritable cry from the heart about a woman in Somalia who "lives a life she didn't choose" and counts grains of rice as rare as pearls. All wishy-washy romanticism is dropped, and Sade's stunningly beautiful soul is revealed.

This collection also contains one song recorded a year later in 1993, a delectable, soft R&B version of Percy Mayfield's "Please Send Me Someone to Love." This decidedly black feel offers a welcome change of pace from the sweet-nothings syndrome. It sounds like the love goddess is getting down.

THE CRANBERRIES are a young Irish group dominated by frontwoman/lyricist Dolores O'Riordan. Its second album, *No Need to Argue* (Helicon), is largely concerned with an unhappy love affair that had O'Riordan feeling her life was over at age 21.

A couple of other songs, such as the single "Zombie," are about babies sacrificed to Ireland's "same old theme since 1916."

O'Riordan, with her intense yodel, tends to try a bit too hard, and she often sounds too much like the American Natalie Merchant. But

she is undeniably talented and the album, which veers from ballads to moderately hard rock, contains a number of fine songs that will sound great on a "Best of" album. Now 23 and married, O'Riordan is philosophical about the prospects of a long-lasting musical career.

"If it all ended tomorrow, we'd just think 'All well and good, we had a good time.' " If she can let that kind of ease permeate her singing, she may turn out to be a talent that lasts.

LIZ PHAIR is making waves among bohemians in the US, a territory whose MTV top 20 currently features sexually forthright women and men who are either in wheelchairs or on their knees.

It's pretty strange, with even the workman's choice, Bon Jovi's tits-and-ass video, showing the bad boy losing the only partially bad girl. It's a loss he obviously regrets, despite the momentary satisfaction of bombing the studio of the pansy artist with whom she takes her revenge.

Phair would probably approve of this demise of the tough guy, since she has taken on the role of the smart cookie who fights back. One of her songs on *Whip Smart* (Hed Arzi) goes: "I met him at a party and he told me how to drive him home." He said he liked to do it backwards; I said that's fine with me. That way we can f--- and watch TV."

Musically, Phair is as agile as a trapeze artist. In fact it's rather hard to follow what on earth she and her garage-style accompanists are doing. One standout effect is some rather peculiar farting sounds. She's obviously having fun, getting over the attack of feeling "totally spastic" triggered by the prospect of having to follow up



Sultry-voiced singer/songwriter Sade Adu's 'Best of Sade' is more than musical sweet nothings.

her first album, the surprise Indie hit *Exile in Guyville*. That one was written in order to get over an unrequited love and to express how shut out she felt from the male bohemian epitomized in the

Rolling Stones's classic *Exile on Main Street*.

In a *Vogue* interview, Phair explained that *Whip Smart* is a natural extension of *Guyville*. "It's still boy-girl, and I'm still wanting love

all through, but I'm not as tortured." This is probably a message that the female pelvis grinders on MTV, Dolores O'Riordan and even Sade in her R&B incarnation could all agree on.

Maazel bringing winter cheer

LORIN Maazel will be back in Jerusalem next month to lead the International Symphony Orchestra in what has now become an annual end-of-year musical tradition in the capital. Classical Winter in Jerusalem (December 21-January 7) this year features both the ISO and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

The ISO ensemble, comprising 120 young musicians from all over the world, will work with both Maazel and Israeli maestro Yoel Levi, the music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

Both worked with a similar orchestra two years ago when this venture was inaugurated in Eilat.

This time Maazel performs Mahler's Fifth Symphony with the orchestra while Levi chose a Russian program featuring Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.

The JSO joins the celebrations with its annual Liturgia program, a tradition, going back many years, of performing the best liturgical works in the repertoire at the end of year, when visiting choirs come to Jerusalem.

This time the program features the Brahms Requiem under Gary Bertini, Haydn's *Creation* under JSO music director David Shalton, Handel's *Messiah* and a Jewish liturgical composition, Noam Sheriff's *Spanish Passion*.

There is also a concert of Ariel Ramirez's *Missa Criolla*.

Michael Ajzenstadt

A glorious drumbeat for a new season

CONCERT ROUNDUP

THE Musica Nova Consort opened its 10th anniversary season with an imposing concert featuring six works, five by local composers.

The concert started with a special treat in the foyer of the museum featuring two of our best musicians: oboist Oded Pintos and percussionist Chen Zimbalista.

Pintos and Zimbalista have been awarded prizes by the Public Council for Culture and Art for their outstanding achievements in the performance of local music. What we heard indeed seemed to justify the acclaim they enjoy.

Pintos played Avraham Amzalag's Moroccan-inspired *Mouwal* for oboe solo with arresting contemplativeness, and Zimbalista simply astounded with his wizardly performance on a huge battery of percussion instruments displayed as an environmental sculpture in the foyer.

Zimbalista's piece, a logically organized improvisation, developed from an almost inaudible pianissimo to a fortissimo display of breathtaking fireworks.

From here we proceeded to the concert proper, in the hall, starting with Seter's deeply moving *Elegy* for clarinet and strings with Avigayil Arneheim playing the clarinet part with remarkable empathy.

The next item was Ari Ben-Shabtai's intriguing *Horns and Harps*, a setting of five ancient Egyptian love songs for soprano, English horn, French horn, harp and double-bass with soprano Eva Ben-Zvi and conductor Itai Talgam.

Ben-Zvi's voice is of rare beauty and great melodiousness even in the most extreme high register, but her diction remains regrettably faulty.

Ben-Shabtai makes no effort to create anything archaic or neo-an-



The wizard on percussion Chen Zimbalista astounded once again. (Jerome Feldman)

cient; he emphasizes the universal and timeless aspects of the verses.

The work's only direct connection with ancient Egypt is the inclusion of horns and harps, instruments displayed on numerous Egyptian reliefs. It is not easy to digest Ben-Shabtai's piece in one sitting.

Ben-Shabtai's work was followed by a theatrical cabaret piece by Ron Weidberg, *Josephina the Singer or the Nation of Mice*, named after one of Kafka's short stories. The piece was brilliantly sung and impersonated by singer-actor Adi Etzion, with a piano and a string quartet providing some kind of instrumental background.

Why Weidberg expresses himself in the long-dead style of Weill and Schoenberg characteristic of Berlin's famous, politically inspired cabarets of the '20s and '30s remains a riddle.

The concert ended almost at midnight with an amusing chamber symphony by American com-

poser John Adams (b. 1946), again with Talgam at the helm. Being a jazzy, rhythmically syncopated piece it seemed to have needed just one additional rehearsal to emerge brilliantly.

Tel Aviv Museum, November 3. Benjamin Bar-Am

ANDREW Parrott chose four 20th-century compositions for his program with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra. He treated each of these works with great respect for detail, often at the expense of overall effect.

This was most apparent in Stravinsky's *Symphony in C*, which was not really in place in this program. The performance did very little credit to the orchestra, exhibiting some of the weaknesses of its individual members, where the strength of the ensemble playing should have come forward.

Things were completely different in "The Ritual Dances" from Tippett's *A Midsummer Marriage*, the only piece on the program which the maestro approached with his heart as well as his mind. German pianist Lars Vogt provided a brilliant rendition of Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini*, sharing Parrott's care for minute details.

Haifa Auditorium, November 2. Michael Ajzenstadt

THE Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra has been playing one first-rate concert after another recently. To open its lunchtime series, Open Studio, the orchestra performed the rarely heard overture to the opera *Maccabees* by Anton Rubinstein.

David Shalton led a well-balanced reading of a piece, which suggested that listening to the entire opera could be rewarding as well.

The orchestra was at its best

form in Dvorak's *Wood Dove*, a beguiling symphonic poem in which Shalton emphasized the contrasts between the varying moods of the piece.

David Geringas joined the orchestra to perform Dutilleul's cello concerto, a contemplative masterpiece in which the composer created an intriguing web of melodies that go back and forth from soloists to orchestra. Geringas presented the piece in all its complexity and beauty.

Henry Crown Symphony Hall, November 1. Michael Ajzenstadt

A PROKOFIEV *Sarcasm* exemplified the principle of "all's well that ends well" in the piano recital of Alexander Sokol, a 34-year-old immigrant from Nishi Novgorod, who arrived here 1½ years ago.

Matters did not go quite so well in the preceding works. There was much bravura, both where it belonged, such as in the Prokofiev piece, and where it didn't - in Bach, Mozart and Schumann. With these he took a lot of artistic liberties, conveying much of Sokol and not quite so much of the composers.

Sokol erroneously relies on the assumption that technical proficiency, abundantly displayed, makes the master. An admirable sense of style was noticeable only in Prokofiev. The rest of the recital was an example of a regrettably lost opportunity.

It could, on the other hand, have been a significant contribution if only this apparently gifted pianist had chosen to present more of the Russian repertoire, with which he is at home and which is not too well known locally, instead of demonstrating a deplorable lack of taste in his selection from the Classics.

Ticho House, Jerusalem, November 4. Ury Eppstein

Macabre tale of Madame-millonaire

THE VISIT
OF THE OLD LADY

By Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Hebrew. Eytan Blum. Direction, Omri Nitzan. Design, Ruth Dar. Music, O. Vidalslavsky. Coproduction of Cameri and Habimah. At the Cameri Theater, Tel Aviv. Hebrew title, *Bikur Hagveta Hatzelina*. Cast: Among some 50 roles Oded Teomi and Lia Koenig are featured as Alfred III and Madame Zachanassian.

FRIEDRICH Dürrenmatt's theater has been variously described as intellectual fantasy, tragedy of disillusion, sardonic sociopolitical commentary and/or study of contemporary life viewed as Grand Guignol.

All apply equally to *The Visit of the Old Lady*, but the first three are stressed, with the play's cynical exposure of the ruthless exploitations of the combined world of high finance, mafiosi and bordellos. Then comes Grand Guignol in the guise of the Old Lady, a "wronged" village maiden turned Madame-millonaire. It is gruesomely projected in the macabre revenge she exacts from Alfred III, the man who initially betrayed her.

Yet this production of the now

Partial curtain call

SIR John Gielgud says he will not act on the stage again, even though he cannot bring himself to retire completely.

The actor, who is 90, made his announcement last week in London's West End as the Globe Theatre was renamed the Gielgud Theatre in his honor.

Sir John said he would continue to accept small roles in films but added: "I don't seem able completely to retire, but I get terribly nervous on stage these days and I shouldn't think I will act again."

(The Daily Telegraph)

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

classic piece is neither compelling as sardonic social commentary nor hair-raising as Grand Guignol. If anything it falls feebly somewhere in between.

Lia Koenig, superbly gowned and made up though she be, fails to register as anything more subtle than a raging revenger. In the part of the monstrous Madame she carries the same rigid mask, relentless rasp and fiendish sneer from start to finish. Rather than a role out of Grand Guignol she mimes a wicked old witch out of Grimm.

Dürrenmatt's marvelous dramatic shrinks to melodrama.

Her playing somewhat snuffs out Oded Teomi's. As the scapegoat of her implacable and finally fatal wrath, he rarely rises to tragic or

comic peaks. In smaller roles, however, Shmuel and Yossi Segal, Yuval Zamir, Yossi Kantz and Dina Doron give piquant caricatures that do capture the essential eccentricity of Dürrenmatt's comic figures and the true spirit of the play.

The *mise-en-scène* takes the lead of the leading lady. For want of a slow, subtle, sinister buildup, it fails to generate the suspense and menace that would steer it to the grand tragicomic climax.

In the first act, a severely stripped set hardly helps. For all its austerity it fails to conjure up the sense of an abjectly poor village community reduced to groveling obsequiousness.

In the second act, however, with the sham prosperity that descends upon the deluded population, there are more lively visual effects. Nonetheless, the malevolent intent and approaching menace that inspire the text never materialize.

THE JERUSALEM POST TOY FUND

LITTLE HEARTS BREAK EASY

Imagine a child in a poor family, or in a home for orphans or the disabled. There's always a reason, it seems, for other kids to get presents: birthdays, achievements, or just for being good.

But no gifts are there for this child. There may be no tears on the outside, but inside, another little heart breaks in silence.

The Jerusalem Post Toy



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Trio of composers is awarded PM's Prize

COMPOSERS Meir Mindel, Moshe Rasiuk and Reuven Seroussi are understandably thrilled at being the 1994 Prime Minister's Prize winners.

The prize is a year's salary pegged at that of a senior lecturer, about NIS 3,000-NIS 4,000 monthly, which eases some of the pressure to make a living.

Seroussi, 34, plans to work on a string quartet, a work for chamber orchestra and "something for the piano. I'll finish whatever I can. It's like getting oxygen. I'll really

be able to settle down and compose instead of working only at vacation time."

A chamber opera is on the menu for Rasiuk, 40, Mindel, 48, a member of Kibbutz Negba, plans a "work for a symphony orchestra. You can write a little work in a few weeks, but in the intensive life of a kibbutz, a big work is difficult."

All three composers have received major kudos recently. Rasiuk, also a choir master and teacher, won the Composer's As-

sociation prize in 1991 for *Idolary* which received its premiere with the Haifa Symphony last year.

Seroussi, also an accomplished classical guitarist, placed third last year in the Israel Philharmonic's symphonic work competition with *Nocturne*, and earlier this year Mindel won the Israel Public Arts Council prize for *White Lie*.

The prize-giving will be at a special concert at the Tel Aviv Conservatory on Thursday which will feature works by all three composers.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	MIRVANA	UNPLUGGED
#2	1	RITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#3	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	THE POP VOLUME 5
#4	12	BON JOVI	CROSSROADS
#5	1	SADE	GREATEST HITS
#6	10	CRANBERRIES	NO NEED TO ARGUE
#7	22	FILM SOUND TRACK	NATURAL BORN KILLERS
#8	15	FILM SOUND TRACK	FORREST GUMP
#9	2	VARIOUS ARTISTS	HIT BOX 6
#10	2	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#11	5	YEHUDIT RAVITZ	COLLECTION
#12	3	MADONNA	BEDTIME STORIES
#13	14	RAMI FORTIS	BAD COY
#14	23	SUEDE	DOG MAN STORIES
#15	1	DORON MAZAR	DREAM OF LOVE

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1994

Gov't to sell Mizrahi
by end of month

THE sale of controlling interest in Mizrahi Bank will be completed by the end of the month, MI Holdings managing director Gil Leidner said yesterday.

Leidner's statement followed Bank of Israel Supervisor of Banks Zeev Abeles's go-ahead to complete the sale process.

The sale was held up by accusations that Yuli Ofer, from the Ofer-Wertheim group bidding for control of Mizrahi, bought information regarding Mizrahi's tax problems from former *Globes* journalist Doron

JOSE ROSENFELD

Rosenfeld.

Abeles said that a special Bank of Israel staff reviewed the case and found that the information Rosenfeld sold Ofer did not provide the latter an advantage over the sale process.

Abeles noted, however, that the State Attorney's Office is still investigating whether the purchase of the information was legal.

As a result, should the Ofer-Wertheim group win the bid for the bank,

Ofer will not be allowed to be directly or indirectly involved in the management of the bank until the investigation is concluded.

If the investigation shows that the purchase of the information did not violate the law in any way, the limitations imposed on Ofer will be eliminated.

The Akirav-Steinmetz consortium and the Ofer-Wertheim group are both competing for the purchase of 26 percent of Mizrahi shares, in addition to an option to buy an additional 25%.

Ministry slams Bezek proposal
to cut overseas rates by 40%

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Communications Ministry yesterday attacked Bezek for proposing to cut overseas rates by 40 percent.

In an official statement, the ministry called the proposal "amateurish, not serious and odd," since the public telecommunications company is already losing millions in calls to other countries.

As long as the number of incoming calls is greater than the number of outgoing calls, Bezek can absorb this loss, but a 40% reduction in rates will be very damaging to the company, the ministry said.

The Bezek spokesman said, however, that it was ready to cut overseas

rates if the government agrees to cancel the company's requirement to pay the Treasury hundreds of millions of shekels in royalties every year.

He said Bezek is the only public telecommunications company in the world required to pay such a "tax" to the government for the capital it received from the government when Bezek was established.

Freed from paying such a large sum in royalties, Bezek, would be able to cut overseas rates substantially and more easily compete with private companies, the spokesman said.

tries.

Meanwhile, at the Jerusalem Business Conference's session on telecommunications last night, Bezek director-general Yitzhak Kaul said the company will open negotiations with Jordan about establishing a joint telecommunications project in the Red Sea.

The project would link the two countries via undersea fiber-optic cables and give both access to a variety of data banks.

Jordan will be able to use Bezek's international dialing system to promote its own links with other coun-

He added that the British company STC has offered to lay an undersea cable linking Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel.

As Israel gets closer to peace with its neighbors, this possibility becomes more realistic, Kaul said.

Kaul said Bezek expects initiatives from Gulf countries for direct links with Israel - two-way phone links have already been established with Oman and Qatar.

By the end of this decade, there will be one million cellular phone lines here, and Telephone prices will drop by 70%, Kaul said.

Gedalya Gal: Apply
capital gains tax
on training funds

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) yesterday said making *krant hishalmut* (training funds) subject to the capital gains tax is one of several changes he expects to the stock market tax bill.

The committee concluded its debate on the bill and will vote on it in a week or two, after it receives answers to some of the issues Gal raised.

Both Gal and Avraham Poraz (Meretz) want *krant hishalmut* to be subject to the new tax, although the Treasury proposal exempts them.

Gal asked Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy to look into the implications of extending the tax to *krant hishalmut*. Gal also requested that Levy check that the tax not infringe on the 1984 law protecting the public's savings.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-

Yair earlier this year prepared an opinion on the law's implication, which caused the Treasury to amend their original proposal to tax capital gains on existing bonds and only apply the tax on bonds that will be issued at the beginning of next year.

Other savings instruments are not affected by the 1984 law.

Bank of Israel senior director of monetary policy David Klein said the legislation is not expected to influence investment by foreigners, since 90 percent of their money is in bank deposits which are not affected by the proposed legislation. However, the new tax will apply to \$800 million worth of foreign investments.

MK Dan Tichon (Likud) opposes taxing *krant hishalmut*, because he said it will cause wage agreements to be reopened.

Work dispute approved in
oil sector after companies
revoke collective agreements

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Histadrut yesterday approved a work dispute at Paz, Sonol, Delek, and Aviation Services after the companies announced they will revoke the collective agreements.

The approval followed an announcement by the management of the oil companies declaring a nullification of their collective agreements.

On Sunday, workers union representatives from Paz, Sonol, Delek, Aviation Services, Oil Refineries, and the gas tank compound at Gilot junction outside Tel Aviv met with the Histadrut Executive Council and head of the Professionals Division, MK Amir Peretz.

"The management has also declared a policy of transferring workers to personal contracts and wage cuts of between 40% and 60%," Paz workers said.

In response to worker allegations that Paz had transferred many employees to personal contracts, Paz spokesman Amir Porat said this had been done with each individual's consent, "and we preserved the collective agreement."

A Paz worker representative said consent was obtained, because the company is waging "psychological

warfare on people who were afraid of losing their jobs."

"The existing collective agreement was signed before the reform [in the fuel sector toward privatization] came into effect," said Porat. "What we request is to bring the workers closer to the changing reality."

Paz notified the workers it would not renew the contract, set to expire on January 1, 1995.

Porat said Paz suggested the workers enter into negotiations on a new collective agreement. The workers "refused our suggestion outright," he said.

"For this reason we had no choice but to notify them of a unilateral nullification, which is within the rights of either side," he said. "Together with this we will continue to meet with the workers to discuss matters concerning the terms of their continued employment."

The representatives of the four unions have called a press conference for this morning in Tel Aviv to present their side. "The oil sector workers are united in a battle of principle and have hopes that all union workers in Israel will join in their struggle," the Histadrut said.



Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish hosts a cocktail for 200 businessmen from Israel and abroad during the Jerusalem Business Conference, which ended yesterday. He said that strengthening women's role in industry and trade is a national goal that must be pursued. Pictured next to Harish is businesswoman Pina Rosenblum and Nigerian politician Sarah Jibril.

Insurance agents
ask court to stop
direct marketing

GALT LIPKIS BECK

DIRECT marketing of insurance policies must be prevented until the finance minister reconsiders the advantages and disadvantages of the marketing method, a petition to the High Court of Justice demanded yesterday.

The petition was filed by the Association of Insurance Agents following the Finance Ministry's recent decision to give Direct Insurance, a company owned by Zur Shamir and the Israel Corporation, a license to offer direct marketing of automobile and home insurance.

The insurance policies are sold by means of telemarketing and computer communications, thus cutting out the cost of agents.

The petition has asked the court to issue an interim injunction to prevent the company from offering direct insurance until the finance minister reconsiders the implications of the marketing method on the insurance sector.

Several weeks ago the association commissioned Economic Models, an independent economic survey company, to prepare an objective study on the implications of direct marketing.

In the petition, the association demanded the High Court instruct the finance minister to wait until Economic Models completes its study before making a final decision.

The agents said the sale of insurance policies by means of telemarketing conflicts with existing laws and necessitates amendments to the insurance regulations. According to the petition, the insurance contract law obliges sellers and buyers of insurance policies to ask and receive in writing questions and answers related to the sale of insurance policies.

Treasury: Higher wages
to slow growth next year

JOSE ROSENFELD

ECONOMIC growth will slow to a rate of five percent next year, as a result of full employment conditions, which will push wages up, Treasury economic adviser Tsipi Gal-Yam said yesterday.

This year's expected growth rate is 6.7%.

Imports continued to moderate last month, while construction of housing picked up, Gal-Yam said.

Excess demand for workers in some industries will cause private sector wages to rise next year, after being stable this year and consistently dropping since the beginning of the immigration wave from the former Soviet Union in 1989.

Despite the 8% jump in public-sector wages this year, Gal-Yam does not expect private-sector salaries to follow suit, saying the link between wages in the two sectors has weakened in recent years.

A greater number of private firms' wage agreements are no longer linked to collective wage pacts, and instead relate to the company's profits.

In addition, the link between government corporations' salaries and public-sector wages has also weakened.

Despite the predicted wage hikes, the business sector will be able to remain profitable due to the large investments it made in the past few years in equipment that helps increase their productivity, Gal-Yam said.

Although the private sector's profitability declined this year, it is still higher than at the end of the 1980s, enabling the firms to continue expanding, she said.

Shahal promotes plan for linking
wide area with electricity network

LIAT COLLINS

ENERGY Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday shared with the participants of the Jerusalem Business Conference his dreams of a joint electricity network linking all the countries of North Africa, through the Middle East, and perhaps into Europe.

Visiting Turkish Prime Minister Tuncu Ciller suggested the regional connection to Shahal and told him there is no need to wait for Syria to join the peace process.

The government should start preparing for the regional grid and energy market now, Shahal said. Turkey is promoting the idea, which would create a huge market for electricity and provide Turkey with a central role in the buying and selling of power between the Middle East and Europe.

The planned connection of the Israeli and Egyptian national grids is already under way, and discussions are being held with the Jordanians, Shahal said.

Shahal also discussed a new gas infrastructure, including pipelines from the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia, to bring petroleum, gas, and petroleum products to the Mediterranean ports in Israel and Gaza.

"In addition to the pipelines recom-

mended by the Hammer Institute study, Israel is also considering laying gas pipelines from Egypt and/or the Gulf states," Shahal said. "There have already been positive contacts and discussions concerning this possibility. If the plans are implemented and the costs of imported gas attractive, this can bring about a revolution in the supply of electricity in our part of the Middle East."

Shahal said the Dead Sea Canal project is raising new interest among Arab states. The project would use the drop in depth between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea and/or the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea to produce electricity for use in operating water desalination plants.

He also noted Omani interest in a solar-powered desalination plant.

He said, however that Jordan - without a Mediterranean port - needs these plants more than Israel. Shahal called on regional leaders to immediately begin discussions on trade agreements. However, Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala), the Palestinian official in charge of economics, did not turn up at the session to hear the plea.

The Palestinians boycotted the meetings to protest the closure of the territories.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Five bids received for sale of up to 24% of Israel Chemicals: At least five bids by local and foreign groups were received by yesterday's deadline for the private sale of up to 24 percent of Israel Chemicals (ICL). Government Companies Authority director Yossi Nitzani announced. Nitzani noted the possibility that additional proposals may have been received by US investment bank Wertheim-Schroeder, which is also marketing the private placement, but had not yet reached Israel due to the different time zones.

Shohat tells Tsar to avoid vegetable shortages: Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday told Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsar to take the necessary measures to avoid vegetable shortages as a result of the weather damages in the Negev and allow for organized and systematic imports of agricultural produce to ensure the availability of needed quantities. Shohat criticized the present import licensing policy which provides individual licenses for a limited time, which do not guarantee attractive prices on imported goods.

Israel General Bank to buy 24.9% stake in Epsilon Investment: Israel General Bank, a member of the Edmond de Rothschild group, yesterday announced plans to purchase a 24.9 percent stake in Epsilon Investment House for \$1.5 million. The purchase remains subject to the approval of General Bank's board of directors.

Autotronic suing Elbit for NIS 4.59 million: Autotronic is suing Elbit for NIS 4.59 million. In a statement released yesterday, Haifa-based Autotronic claims that in April 1992, Elbit's CIV (television) division suggested a development agreement whereby Elbit would develop and manufacture car alarm systems which would be purchased and marketed by Autotronic.

Autotronic maintains that Elbit obligated itself to supply 210 units for testing by October 1992, and to provide a quantity of no less than 1,000 units starting in December 1992. Autotronic, which was established for the purpose of the cooperative venture, said it invested funds and effort in creating a marketing network for the Elbit car alarms, including third party sales agreements and negotiations with many potential clients.

All Hapoalim, FIBI provident funds report negative real returns: Bank Hapoalim and First International Bank reported that all their provident funds had negative real returns in October and the first 10 months of the year. Bank Leumi, United Mizrahi Bank, and Discount Bank are expected to publish their provident funds' yields by the end of the week.

Bank Hapoalim's Gadish, the country's largest fund, achieved a negative real yield of 0.3% in October and a negative real yield of 6% for the first 10 months of the year. First International Bank's largest provident fund, Meitav - which manages assets of NIS 943m - achieved a real negative yield of 0.14% in October, and a negative real yield of 3.99% in the January-October period.

Nikuv wins NIS 45 million tender from Zimbabwe ministry: Nikuv Computers of the Formula group has won a NIS 45 million tender to supply Zimbabwe's Interior Ministry with computer systems. Nikuv will also computerize the country's balloting systems for elections, to be held within a few months. Service will be provided to Nikuv by Formula and MLM Systems of the Cial group. The project is expected to be completed within 20 months.

Elscint in advanced talks with Moroccan distributors: Elscint is in advanced negotiations for representation in Morocco with a number of leading distributors, following participation in an annual medical equipment exhibit in there last month. Some Elscint medical imaging equipment is already in place in Morocco, and the company hopes to expand that market through improved trade relations between Israel and Morocco.

Chemical signs 10-year deal to distribute Perio products: Chemical has signed a 10-year agreement to distribute Israel Chemicals subsidiary Perio products, which are licensed by the Health Ministry for treatment of tooth and gum disease.

Diamond exports jumps 47% to record \$420 million in October: Diamond exports reached a monthly record of \$420 million in October, up 47 percent over the same period last year, according to the Israel Diamond Institute. The industry's net exports for the first 10 months of the year exceeded \$2.85 billion, up 14% over the corresponding period last year. Of the Israel Diamond Institute chairman Moshe Schmitzer attributed the growth to a rise in sales of large stones, half-carats and fancy shapes.

RADA ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES LIMITED
NOTICE OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given regarding the Annual General Meeting of RADA ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES LIMITED (the "Company"), which is to be held at the office of Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, 114 West 47th Street, 17th Floor, New York, on Wednesday, November 23, 1994, at 3:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To elect two Directors;
2. To consider and act upon a proposal to adopt the Rada Electronic Industries Limited 1994 Stock Option Plan;
3. To approve the grant of stock options to the Company's directors;
4. To ratify the appointment of auditors;
5. To consider and approve the Auditor's Report, Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company and the Directors' Report for the year ended December 31, 1993; and
6. To vote upon such other business as may lawfully come before the Meeting or at any adjournment thereof.

A shareholder who wishes to vote at the meeting by way of proxy must deposit the instrument appointing the proxy at the office of the Company at 12 Medinat Hayehudim Street, Herzliya, 46120 Israel, or at the address where the meeting is to be convened as mentioned above, at least forty-eight hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

If, within half an hour from the time appointed for the holding of the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or any time and hour as the Directors shall designate and state in a notice to the shareholders, and if, at such adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for holding the meeting, two shareholders present in person or by proxy shall be a quorum.

By order of the Board of Directors, Mordechai Perera, Secretary.

Want to keep
in close touch
with your
securities
till 11 PM?

JOIN US TELEBANK
DIAL 03-5199111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.
[ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK]

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (6.11.94)			
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.000	3.220	3.676
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.500	4.875	5.750
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.135	3.250	3.675
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.000	3.125	3.500
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.125

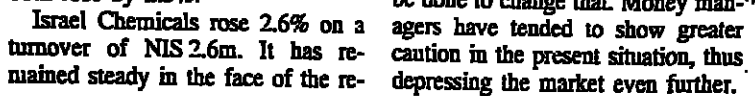
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (7.11.94)			
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		Rep. Bank
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.2683	3.4140	3.2683
German mark	2.9811	3.0232	2.93
French franc	1.5703	1.5981	1.54
Japanese yen (100)	4.8204	4.8826	4.73
British pound	0.5745	0.5924	0.55
Swiss franc (100)	3.5701	3.1135	3.02
Dutch guilder	1.7672	1.7820	1.73
Spanish peseta	2.2629	2.2681	2.21
Scandinavian krona	0.4057	0.4114	0.40
Norwegian krona	0.4512	0.4576	0.44
Danish krone	0.5021	0.5082	0.49
Finland mark	0.2546	0.2595	0.25
Canadian dollar	2.1175	2.2225	2.12
Australian dollar	2.2349	2.2855	2.14
S. African rand	0.2520	0.2622	0.27
Belgian franc (10)	0.5873	0.5710	0.54
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7585	2.5362	2.75
Italian lira (1000)	1.9187	1.9458	1.89
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.22
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.57
Israeli sheqel	3.7487	3.2017	—
Irish punt	4.7327	4.8206	4.65
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2683	2.2689	2.20

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

ANDRE LUMBROSO



WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

The Dow Jones industrial average

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Blue-chip stocks closed slightly higher yesterday as the traders marked time ahead of today's general election and an interest rate hike expected next week.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended 1.35 points higher at 3,808.87, based on early and unofficial data.

In the broader market, declining issues led advances 13-8 on moderate volume of 256 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr
MARK	—	0.4083/86	84.15/18	0.8987/70	3.427/79
STERLING	2.4473/89	—	157.04/16	2.0481/86	8.2883/54
YEN	1.5576/82	0.5362/89	—	1.9036/48	5.5400/43
SFr	1.1948/54	0.4873/83	76.55/70	—	4.0487/74
FFr	0.3916/18	0.1191/82	18.59/79	0.2441/42	—

Prices given 22:30 local time

**Buy Blue & White
and Keep Israel in
the Pink**

Two-sided trading

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK[illegible][illegible]

413

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date"

(Spot market bidings are from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All others are closing quotes.)

European hoops draw promises of hot winter

JOEL GORDIN

FOLLOWING the European Cup and Korac Cup draw in Munich over the weekend, a hot winter of international basketball is promised for local fans, at least until the end of February.

As the dust clears from the preliminary rounds of the European contests, three National League teams have qualified for the final pools: Maccabi Tel Aviv in the European Club Championships, Hapoel Tel Aviv in the European Cup and Hapoel Eilat in the Korac Cup.

Maccabi, which has already started the Sweet Sixteen, is faltering with an 0-2 mark. The pool ends on February 23, followed by the quarter-finals on March 9.

Hapoel Tel Aviv has advanced to the final 12, which runs from November 22-February 7. The teams are divided into two groups of six, with the two top teams in each group qualifying for the Final Four starting on February 16.

Hapoel Eilat will play in the Final 16 of the Korac Cup, in which the

teams are divided into four groups of four. The two best-placed clubs of each group will contest the quarter-finals starting on January 25.

Teams which did not advance past the preliminaries are Hapoel Jerusalem (European Cup), and Bnei Herzliya, Maccabi Rishon LeZion and Hapoel Galil Elyon (Korac Cup). Hapoel Tel Aviv began in the European Club Championships, but was demoted to the European Cup.

Hapoel Tel Aviv
11/22 - Lithuania's Riga (home)
11/29 - Spain's Taucares (h)
12/6 - Poland's Wloclawia (away)
12/13 - Turkey's Fenerbahce (a)
1/3 - Italy's Benetton Treviso (h)
1/10 - Riga (a)
1/17 - Taucares (h)
1/24 - Wloclawia (h)
1/31 - Fenerbahce (a)
2/7 - Benetton Treviso (a)

Hapoel Eilat
11/23 - Greece's Peristeri (home)
11/30 - Spain's Caceres (h)
12/6 - Italy's Milano (away)
12/14 - Peristeri (a)
1/4 - Caceres (a)
1/11 - Milano (h)

Phoenix cools Heat wave

PHOENIX (AP) - It took the Phoenix Suns about 1½ games to realize they're a potent team even without Charles Barkley.

With Barkley and Danny Ainge out with injuries, Kevin Johnson and Dan Majerle took control in the second half of Sunday night's 119-107 Phoenix victory over the Miami Heat in the only NBA game scheduled.

Johnson scored 8 of his 29 points in the final 2:29.

"If I have to take a shot or something to get out there, I'll do it. I only have a few years left in this game, and I have to be out there for this team," Johnson said of his performance, which included nine

assists. Majerle finished with 20 points and a career-high 15 rebounds.

Harold Miner of the Heat and Danny Manning of the Suns were ejected with 10:59 left in the game. Miner went after Suns center Joe Kleine and Manning protested his fifth foul too vehemently.

The Suns settled down, though, and Johnson returned from a breather to hit a 20-foot jumper from the top of the key, ending an 8-0 Miami run and giving Phoenix a 109-105 lead. He made six free throws in the final minutes.

Phoenix, the only NBA team the Heat has never beaten, improved to 15-0 in the series.

Dolphins, Vikings, Falcons in 1-point wins

Bengals end 8-game losing streak with OT victory over Seahawks

SEATTLE (AP) - Dan Marino and Warren Moon are used to winning games in the final seconds. So is Pittsburgh's Gary Anderson. But Doug Pelfrey?

Pelfrey gave Cincinnati its first victory of the season with his sixth field goal, a 26-yarder, with 6:46 left in overtime Sunday to beat Seattle 20-17 in the Kingdom.

Marino rallied the Miami Dolphins for 10 points in the final four minutes, lifting them to a 22-21 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Pete Stoyanovich's 34-yard field goal with four seconds left.

"After you do it a number of times, you believe you can do it," Marino said after his 28th final-quarter comeback victory.

Moon didn't rely on a field goal for Minnesota as he passed 11 yards to Oshay Ismail with five seconds left and the Vikings beat the New Orleans Saints 21-20.

"When you know you need it, Warren will come in and say, 'This is what we've got to do, everybody listen.'" Vikings receiver Jake Reed said. "And everybody listens."

And then there was Anderson, who kicked a 40-yard field goal - his fourth of the game - with 3:36 left in overtime to lift the Steelers to a 12-9 win over the Houston Oilers.

Bengals 20, Seahawks 17 (OT). Visiting Cincinnati didn't score a TD, but got the points they needed from Pelfrey, who set a club record by converting on kicks of 36, 44, 36, 47, and 28 yards before his game-winning.

A 76-yard pass from Jeff Blake (31-for-43 for 387 yards) to rookie Darnay Scott set up the winning points. Pelfrey forced the overtime with his 28-yarder with 4:27 left in regulation.

Cincinnati (1-8) didn't win until its 11th game last season. The Bengals also had a safety in handing the Seahawks (3-6) their fifth loss in a row.

Dolphins 22, Colts 21. Marino (30-for-41 for 263 yards) bounced back from a costly fourth-quarter interception to rally host Miami. Cornerback Ray Buchanan appeared to set up a victory for the Colts (4-6) when he intercepted a pass and returned it 28 yards for a TD with 7:52 left.

Marino then hit OJ McDuffie on a 28-yard TD pass with 3:52 left and the Dol-

phins got the ball right back. Marino completed five passes in a row to the 17 before Stoyanovich kicked the winner.

Miami running backs Bernie Parmalee (right knee, shoulder) and fullback Keith Byars (right knee) were both injured. The Colts' Don Majkowski injured his right thumb and was replaced late in the second quarter by Jim Harbaugh.

Vikings 21, Saints 20. Moon moved host Minnesota 64 yards in 13 plays after the Saints (3-6) had taken the lead on two field goals by Morten Andersen. The quarterback was 8-for-12 for 86 yards on winning drive, including a 4-yard, fourth-down completion to Amp Lee at the New Orleans 27.

Moon finished 33-for-57 for 420 yards and two TDs.

Eagles 17, Cardinals 7. Randall Cunningham threw two long TD passes to Fred Barnett in the third quarter as host Philadelphia spoiled Buddy Ryan's return to Veterans' Stadium. The Eagles' defense produced two turnovers and five sacks against Arizona (3-6). Ryan was greeted by a cascade of boos as he came onto the field before the game. There were several signs and banners hung inside the stadium, some praising him and others praising the former coach.

Cunningham was 15-for-24 for 201 yards and also chipped in 63 yards on eight carries for Philadelphia (7-2).

Jets 22, Bills 17. Boomer Esiason hit Rob Moore with a 4-yard TD pass late in the third quarter to lift host New York (5-4) to its second win over Buffalo (5-4) this season.

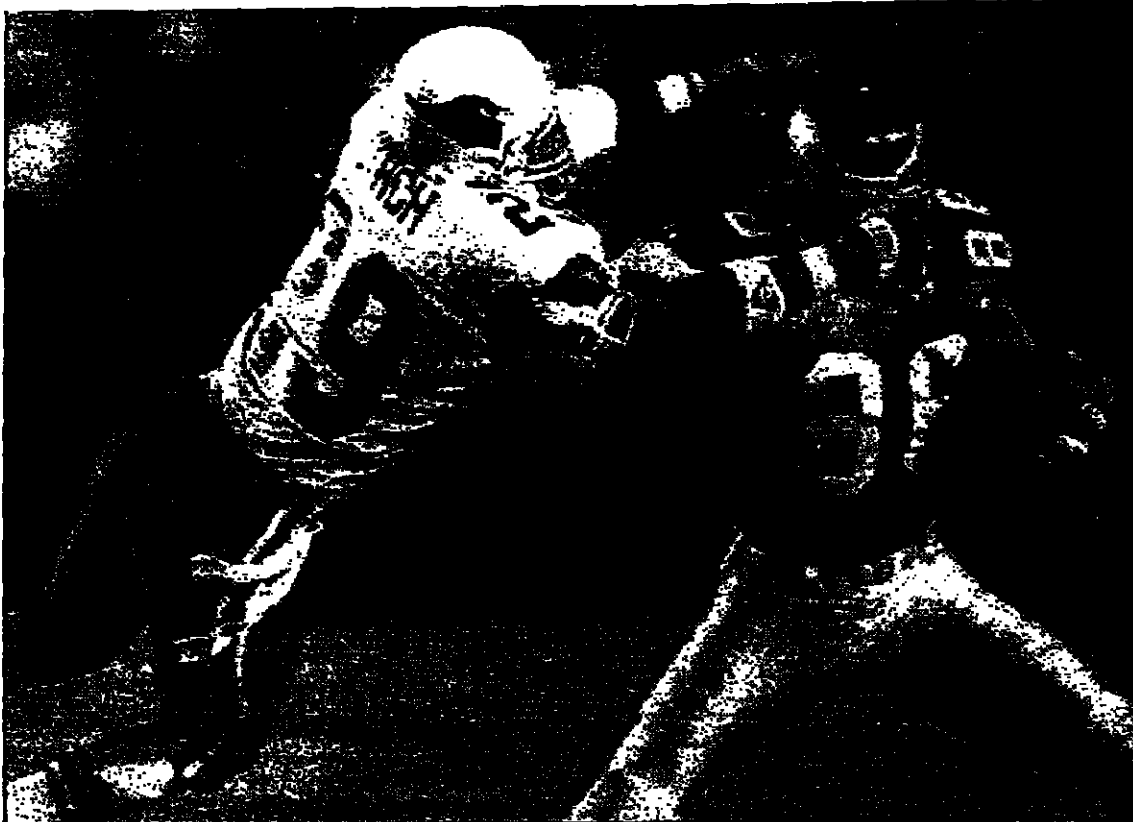
Esiason was forced out twice with ankle injuries, while safety Ronnie Lott missed the second half with a neck injury. Andre Reed, Buffalo's leading receiver, also missed the second half with an injury and Don Beebe was injured on a hit by the Jets' Bobby Houston.

Trailing 14-10, the Jets drove 79 yards to the go-ahead touchdown and then got two of Nick Lowery's three field goals in the fourth quarter. In the final minutes, the Bills marched to the Jets' 27 and Jim Kelly's fourth-down pass was incomplete.

Browns 13, Patriots 6. Leroy Hood ran for 123 yards and scored on a 1-yard pass from Mark Rypien as host Cleveland (7-2) is off to its best start since 1965.

The Patriots' Drew Bledsoe threw for 166 yards, nearly half of it in the fourth quarter, and was intercepted four times as the top-rated passing team was bothered with wind gusts of up to 40 mph. Eric Turner had two of the interceptions.

Rams 27, Broncos 21. Chris Chandler threw two TD passes that helped host Los Angeles to a 21-point lead and the Rams (4-5) held off another



SHORT GAINER - Eagles WR Fred Barnett (r) is grabbed by Cardinals strong safety Lorenz Lynch after a 5-yard pass. Barnett caught 2 TD passes in Philadelphia's win.

fourth-quarter comeback by John Elway. Elway threw a pair of TDs in the final period, and got a final chance when the Broncos (3-6) took over at the Los Angeles 48 with 2:28 left. He gained three yards on two completions but then missed a pass to Shannon Sharpe on fourth down.

Falcons 10, Chargers 9. No touchdowns, no victory for the visiting Chargers. For the second time in three games, San Diego got its points on John Carney field goals, while Jeff George threw a 9-yard TD pass to Terance Mathis in the first quarter and Norm Johnson's 23-yard field goal proved to be the winning points for the Falcons (5-4).

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PI	PF
Miami	7	2	0	.778	225	170
Dallas	6	4	0	.600	185	175
N.Y. Jets	5	4	0	.556	183	167
Indianapolis	4	6	0	.400	216	233
New England	3	6	0	.333	184	219
Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PI	PF
Cleveland	7	2	0	.778	189	111
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667	153	146
Cincinnati	1	8	0	.111	141	220
Houston	1	8	0	.111	116	194
West	W	L	T	Pct.	PI	PF
San Diego	7	3	0	.700	202	151
Kansas City	7	3	0	.667	182	178
LA Raiders	4	5	0	.444	183	205
LA Broncos	3	6	0	.333	203	233
Seattle	3	6	0	.333	185	179

The Chargers (7-2), with Gale Gilbert starting for the injured Stan Humphries, had a TD called back because of an interference penalty and Carney, who extended his streak to 21 field goals in a row, missed on his No. 22, a 47-yarder that sailed wide right with 8:01 left.

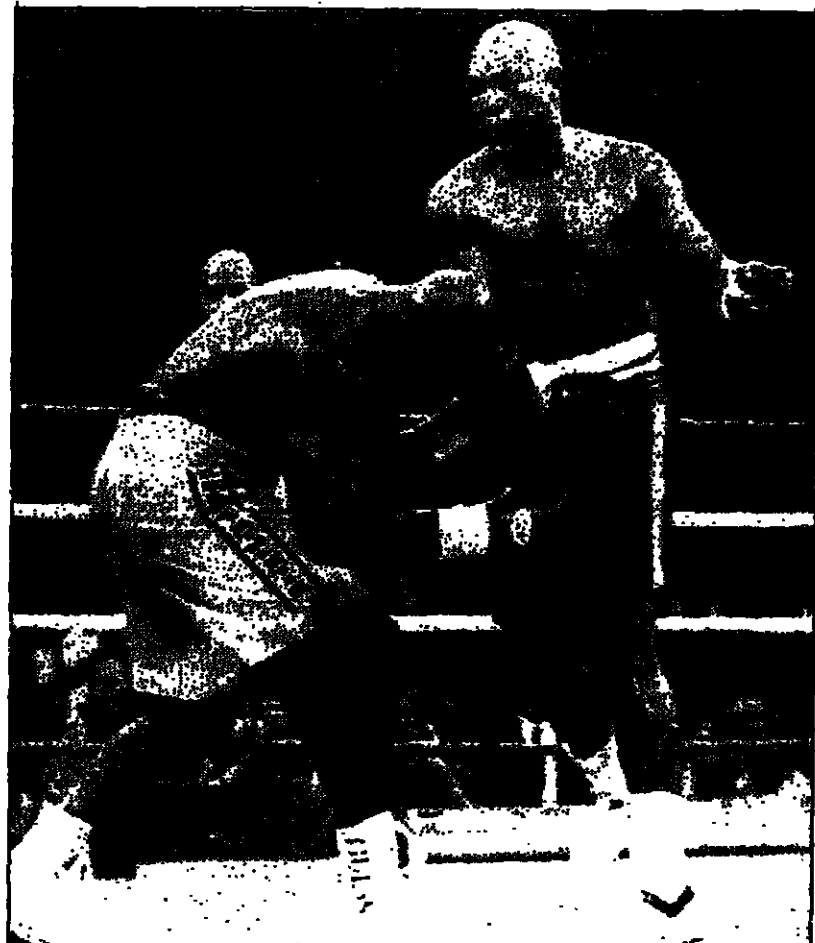
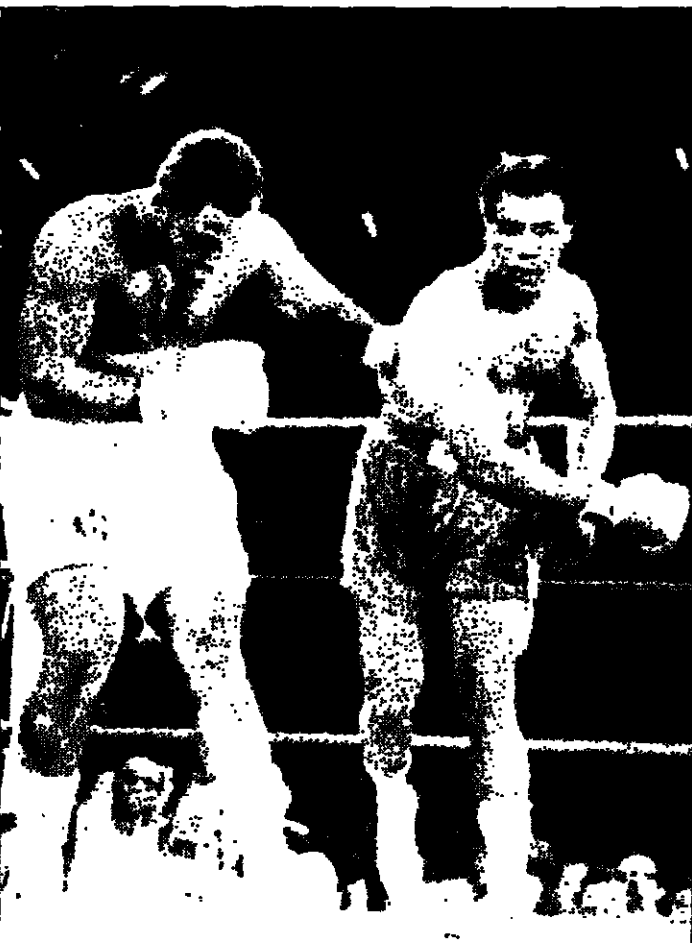
Chiefs 13, Raiders 3. Derrick Walker turned a short pass from Joe Montana into a 57-yard reception, producing the only touchdown and just about the only excitement in host Kansas City's plodding victory. Kansas City's defense, which had given up 95 points in its three previous games, was helped by 15 Los Angeles penalties for 115 yards and two missed field goals by Jeff Jaeger.

Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer got his 100th career victory.

The Redskins (2-8) are winless in six games at RFK, their worst start at home since 1961. Gus Frerotte was 15-of-32 for 167 yards and two interceptions before Chicago 20, Tampa Bay 6. Green Bay 28, Detroit 30. Miami 22, Indianapolis 21. Minnesota 21, New Orleans 20. Pittsburgh 12, Houston 9 (OT). Atlanta 16, San Diego 9. San Francisco 37, Washington 22. Cleveland 13, New England 6. Philadelphia 17, Arizona 7. NY Jets 22, Buffalo 17. Cincinnati 20, Seattle 17 (OT). LA Rams 27, Denver 21. Kansas City 13, Raiders 3. LAST NIGHT'S GAME: NY Giants at Dallas.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PI	PF
Dallas	7	1	0	.875	210	110
Philadelphia	7	2	0	.778	208	148
N.Y. Giants	3	5	0	.375	192	172
Arizona	5	4	0	.556	181	186
Washington	2	8	0	.200	220	278
Central	W	L	T	Pct.	PI	PF
Minnesota	7	2	0	.778	204	138
Chicago	5	4	0	.556	195	163
Green Bay	5	4	0	.556	181	183
Detroit	4	5	0	.444	185	208
Tampa Bay	2	7	0	.222	115	215
West	W	L	T	Pct.	PI	PF
San Francisco	7	2	0	.778	214	172
Atlanta	5	4	0	.556	181	186
LA Rams	4	5	0	.444	182	177
New Orleans	3	6	0	.333	178	228



THEN AND NOW - (Left) George Foreman knocks out Joe Frazier in 1973 to win heavyweight crown. (Right) Foreman regains title with a 10th-round knockout of Michael Moorer on Saturday.

Was Foreman's victory good for boxing?

LAS VEGAS (AP) - It was a last-minute goal; a hole-in-one on the 18th; a basket from midcourt at the final whistle.

All of those things were packed into the boxing glove that crashed against Michael Moorer's jaw and made George Foreman a heavyweight champion at the ripe old age of 45.

But was Foreman's dramatic 10th-round knockout victory Saturday night good for boxing? What does it say about the state of the sport, particularly the heavyweight division?

"George got lucky, but it just shows what boxing is like today," said Larry Holmes, a champion from 1978 to 1985, who will challenge Oliver McCall on January 21 for the WBC heavyweight title.

"These young guys can't fight. We older people have to teach these young people that we know what we're doing," Holmes said from his home in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Foreman took advantage of a lapse of concentration by the 26-year-old Moorer in delivering the winning two-punch combination.

"All he (Moorer) had to do was use the jab and move side to side," Holmes said.

In the 10th round, however, Moorer stood in

OPINION

ED SCHUYLER Jr

front of Foreman.

"George is a big truck, but if he runs over you, he'll kill you," Holmes said. "He phoned him from Chicago and said, 'I'm coming,' and the .001 waited there for him."

Promoter Bob Arum bristled at the suggestion that a 45-year-old man winning a share of boxing's biggest prize - the IBF and WBA titles - made a mockery of the sport.

"When Nolan Ryan pitched a no-hitter, did they say baseball stinks?" Arum asked, referring to the ace right-hander who was 46 when he retired.

"When miracles like this happen, how can it be bad for boxing?" said Angelo Dundee, who worked in Foreman's corner and was in Muhammad Ali's corner when Foreman lost the undisputed title 20 years ago in Zaire.

"Yeah, George's win is good for boxing because people know who George Foreman is," Holmes said. "What's wrong with boxing is the money. People don't get to see fights because the money's so big, fighters don't fight much."

Big purses lead to inactivity, which keep fighters from developing a marketable name or makes them fade from the public consciousness.

Boxing suffers from not enough names that are known to the general public. It has needless weight divisions and champions recognized by a growing number of governing bodies, seemingly set up overnight.

As for the state of the heavyweight division, with the exceptions of the 1970s when Ali, Foreman, Holmes, Joe Frazier, Earnie Shavers, Ken Norton and Jerry Quarry dominated, it has never been deep in talent.

And recently, heavyweight champions have done little to add prestige to the title. So it is hoped that Foreman's victory will be a badly needed shot in the arm for a sport that awaits Mike Tyson's return.

Said Holmes: "If George can do it, I can do it." Foreman and Holmes are the exceptions, however. They fight in a division where speed of hand and foot are not as important as they are in lighter divisions.

Their successes could encourage older fighters in other weight classes to continue with diminished skills - and that could be dangerous.

Gooch, Gating lead England

ADELAIDE (Reuters) - England veterans Mike Gating and Graham Gooch struck a blow for the older generation yesterday when they guided the tourists to a four-wicket win against South Australia.

Chasing 260 for victory, England reached the target with just two overs to spare on the strength of telling contributions from their two most experienced players.

Gooch, at 41 the oldest member of England's Ashes party, laid the foundation for an ultimately tense victory at Adelaide Oval with a fine 101, his second century on tour.

After dominating the bowling during a 199-minute stay at the crease which featured ten fours, Gooch fell to a superb, diving leg side catch by wicketkeeper Tim Nielsen off the bowling of seamer Greg Blewett.

Gating, 37, who captained the side in the absence of Mike Atherton, who was rested, contributed a valuable 56, ending a dismal run of low scores since arriving in Australia last month. Atherton, who watched the match from the stands, said he was "delighted England had recorded their opening first-class win of the tour."

Heart attacks claim 2 in NY Marathon

NEW YORK (AP) - Two runners in the New York City Marathon suffered heart attacks and died, hospital and emergency officials said, while a third runner suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized.

The deaths were the second and third in the 25 years of the event. The other was in 1984.

Both runners who died Sunday collapsed in Central Park after completing the 26.2-mile (42.195km) race.

Pierre Marquette, 27, of New York, went down shortly after crossing the finish line. He was dead on arrival at St. Luke's Hospital.

The other casualty in the field of 27,665 runners was a 50-year-old man from Bulgneville, France, who collapsed in the park and was also dead on arrival at the hospital. His name was withheld pending notification of his family.

The only previous marathon fatality was a 48-year-old Frenchman in 1984, race officials said.

A third man, Edward Barry, 47, of New York, collapsed on the course at 136th Street and Fifth Avenue, according to the Emergency Medical Service. An off-duty Emergency Medical Service technician, who was watching the race, immediately began cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. He was taken to Harlem Hospital, where he was in stable condition.

Dozens of runners were treated for various minor ailments, including leg cramps. More than 200 EMS workers - as well as crews from various hospitals - were in Central Park and all along the marathon course.

Many people sought help after the race inside medical tents set up near the finish line.

Although the temperature during the race was 68°F (20°C), the humidity was 78 percent, the second-highest level since 1976 when the race was first run on its course through all five New York City boroughs.

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SHARON AREA

DWELLINGS

SALE/RENT,

IDF probing how and why soldier stole tank

THE committee appointed by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran to investigate the circumstances surrounding the theft of an IDF tank Sunday night is interrogating both the thief, Sgt. Amit Nehemia, and his commanding officers at the ordnance depot in Julis.

The Military Police Criminal Investigation Division team, headed by Col. Meir Kalifi, will try to determine why the tanks weren't better guarded and how Nehemia managed to drive the tank out of the camp before it became obvious that something was wrong. It will also examine possible mistreatment of Nehemia by his super-

riors, which may have driven him to steal the tank and drive it recklessly along a major highway, colliding with a bus and injuring nine passengers in the process.

Nehemia, 20, a tank mechanic from Yahud, acted alone when he took the upgraded M-60 Patton tank from the Julis depot, drove it into the fields, and then on the Bnei Re'em road west towards the Bnei Darom junction. He then turned north for several kilometers, crossing the busy Ashdod intersection with police in futile pursuit, and air force helicopters

ALON PINKAS

hovering overhead.

Nehemia also indiscriminately shot his M-16 assault rifle several times along the way and bumped into several telephone poles.

North of the intersection, the tank's cannon hit an No. 222 Egged bus, en route from Rehovot to Ashdod, slightly injuring nine passengers. The driver, Zvika Stein, of Rehovot, said later that he was sure the noise was a terror attack.

"The passengers panicked, and I got out and shot my pistol in the air. How could anyone possibly

assume it was a tank on the run?" Stein said from Kaplan Hospital, where he was treated for cuts.

The tank's tread fell off near Moshav Beit Zakai, and negotiations began when Nehemia realized he was surrounded by army and police forces. Nehemia finally surrendered at 1:15 am., after his family, best friend, and one determined police officer, Superintendent Yifrah Duchovny, talked him into giving up.

While these incidents are extremely rare, if the guards have no reason to be suspicious, it is relatively easy to drive a tank away from a base.

Policeman describes how he talked Nehemia out of the tank

"I FORMED a warm relationship" with the soldier who stole the tank, Superintendent Yifrah Duchovny, deputy chief of the Rishon LeZion police, who talked to Sgt. Amit Nehemia for three hours and 15 minutes while he was inside the tank.

Duchovny, who served in the Armored Corps, said he tried to appeal to Nehemia's emotions.

Although the police negotiating team, which includes a psychologist, was present, Duchovny led the negotiations.

"I was among the first there, and at first talked to him through a megaphone from 15 meters away," he said last night. "It's of paramount importance to start talking to such people as soon as possible."

Duchovny said he told Nehemia to relax and reassured him that no harm would

RAINE MARCUS

come to him.

"I told him to signal with the cannon if he wanted help," he said.

After a while and much gentle persuasion Nehemia began to signal.

"I understood the whole process needed a lot of patience," said Duchovny.

Duchovny also persuaded Nehemia to allow him into the tank. Then, the discussion took a more personal note.

The two talked about "everything under the sun - family and army problems, tanks," said Duchovny, who added that Nehemia was "very intelligent, but distressed and very depressed about everything."

Nehemia softened up during the 40 minutes Duchovny sat with him inside the tank. Du-

chovny asked him if he wanted to phone home. He declined, but Duchovny phoned his wife Pessi, who also appealed to the troubled soldier.

Pessi told Nehemia him to look after himself and her husband, and "inflated his ego, turning him into part of the family."

"I have a son who will be going into the army soon," she told him.

Nehemia then said he would surrender after his friend was brought into the tank.

Duchovny said he would try and continue to help Nehemia.

him adds:

Nehemia's parents expressed anger that they learned of the incident from the media.

"We're surprised and angry that no one from the army told us a thing about our son," said his mother Sima.

High Court hears petition against destroying house of Tel Aviv bus bomber's parents

IT is very hard to accept that no sanctions can be taken against a man who killed 21 people, just because he is dead, Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar said yesterday, in response to a petition against the demolition of the house belonging to the parents of the Tel Aviv bus bomber.

The petition was filed by the Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) on behalf of terrorist Sallah Nazeel's father.

The High Court of Justice finished hearing the petition yesterday, but Justices Aharon Barak, Eliezer Goldberg, Mishael Cheshin, Eliahu Mazza, and Shamgar will give their decision later.

Government attorney Nili Arad said the demolition was essential to deter other terrorists from suicide bombings.

"[Demolitions] are the most effective sanction the security forces know of with respect to a suicide terrorist... guided by religious ideology, since he himself will be going to heaven," she said. "[Nazeel] should have known that his acts could hurt his family. And if a future terrorist wants to commit such an act, he will know that he is likely to hurt his family."

Since there are two families living in the house - that of Nazeel's parents and that of his married brother - the army would destroy only that part of the house used by

EVELYN GORDON

the parents and their unmarried children, Arad said.

"But when security considerations are in a frontal confrontation with the rights of the individual... the rights of the individual must retreat," she said.

In response, ACRI attorney Eliahu Abram first tried to argue that Nazeel had not been definitely identified as the terrorist.

However, the justices made short shrift of this argument, noting that Hamas itself had fingered Nazeel as the killer, even producing a videotape of Nazeel taking credit for the act in advance. Why, they asked, would Hamas lie about this?

The justices seemed equally unsympathetic to Abram's argument that, according to the family, Nazeel had not lived in his parents' house for years, and that in the last six months, he had not even been in contact with them.

Arad, in contrast, said she had a signed statement by Nazeel's brother indicating that he did live there, as well as other evidence.

If Nazeel didn't live with his parents, where did he live? When Abram said he did not know, they then asked why he had left home. If he left because he was wanted by the army and went into hiding,

the justices asked, does that mean he has really moved?

Finally, Abram argued that in principle, it is wrong to destroy the house of a dead man, because then the only people to suffer would be his innocent family. It is one thing for innocent people to suffer as an unintended consequence of punishing the guilty, he said, but quite another when the suffering of the innocent is the main effect of a punishment.

Arad, in contrast, said there was evidence that one of Nazeel's brothers knew he was planning something before the attack. Furthermore, since Nazeel was in close contact with his parents, they might have been able to influence him, she said.

Shamgar, however, noted that the building code permits buildings to be destroyed as punishment for violations, even if the owner is dead.

"This shows that being alive is not a condition for imposing these sanctions," he said. "It's very hard to accept a thesis whereby it is impossible to impose sanctions on a man who killed 21 people... just because he was killed."

The entire criminal code, Shamgar added, is aimed at deterrence as well as retributive justice. If no punishment can be imposed once a man is dead, he said, "this creates a deterrence vacuum."

Knesset unit nixes bill bringing Yi'ud into government

DAN IZENBERG

THE Knesset Law Committee will vote today on a bill enabling Yi'ud MKs to join the government, after the coalition failed to pass it yesterday, committee chairman Dedi Zucker said.

The coalition bill, initiated by Labor's Eli Dayan and Saleh Tarif, states that MKs who break away from an existing Knesset faction to form an independent one, may join the government. Approval of the bill would enable Yi'ud MKs Gonen Segal and Alex Goldfarb to receive cabinet portfolios.

But a committee majority of seven opposition MKs, including Shas renegade Yosef Azran, approved a draft which would postpone the implementation of the coalition proposal until the next Knesset, thus shutting Yi'ud out of the government.

In the meantime, Shas has replaced Azran with Moshe Mayya, and it is likely that the coalition version will be approved today.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was angered because one Labor MK failed to show up for the vote. "We must uphold our agreement with Yi'ud," Rabin told the Labor faction at a meeting later in the afternoon.

Despite the setback, Segal and Goldfarb voted with the government for a controversial bill facilitating the implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements and clamping down on PLO activity in Jerusalem.

Segal is slated to become minister of energy and Goldfarb deputy housing minister. However, the appointments were blocked by the High Court of Justice, which ruled that the Basic Law: Government prevents members of all splinter groups from joining the cabinet, even if the splinter groups had become legally constituted factions.

The opposition proposal was submitted by Eliezer Zandberg (Molodet). Zandberg added a proviso that members of the splinter faction could only join the government if one-third of the members of the parent party's governing body had supported the secession.

A worker at the Neveh Ativ ski resort on Mount Hermon began readying one of the lifts yesterday, after some 10 cm of snow fell on the mountain, the first snow of the winter. Rain continued to fall in many parts of the country, and strong winds were reported, but forecasters expect the rain to ease up today and temperatures to rise gradually as the week progresses.

Azran will surrender post to escape Shas

DAN IZENBERG

MK Yosef Azran, who recently split from the Shas Party, said yesterday he would yield his post as deputy Knesset speaker in return for official recognition as a one-man faction with all the prerogatives of the other factions.

Azran, who was speaking during a House Committee meeting, accused Shas of trying to "strip me of all my parliamentary prerogatives so that I will be unable to function."

The committee meeting was held to discuss the principle of whether a Knesset deputy speaker can be deposed in the middle of the parliamentary term. But the theoretical discussion was in fact the beginning of an attempt by Shas to remove Azran from his post.

The Knesset House Rules stipulate that deputy speakers cannot be deposed; but Shas wants to initiate a change in the rules to get rid of Azran. Relations between the maverick MK and party leaders are extremely bitter. Recently, a tape cassette was released which included insulting descriptions of Azran by Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

The issue is critical for Azran who is currently locked into his faction because of an amendment to

the Basic Law: Knesset which imposes severe sanctions on MKs who quit their factions in the middle of a term.

Were Azran to officially declare himself a one-man faction, he would be ineligible for party funding, could not initiate legislation or motions to the agenda, or sit on Knesset committees.

In the meantime, Azran is still formally a member of the Shas faction but is at the mercy of his former colleagues. Shas will soon remove Azran from his seat on two Knesset committees as well as try to depose him as speaker.

Azran said that under these circumstances, the Knesset would have only 119 MKs.

Yesterday's meeting ended with a suggestion by committee chairman Hagai Merom that Azran and Shas representatives meet to seek a compromise solution. Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar said the law included a provision whereby if the majority of MKs in a parliamentary faction declare that the faction has split, each splinter, no matter how small, becomes a recognized faction with all the inherent prerogatives.

Man gets 12 years for feminivorous assault

RAINE MARCUS

A MAN who bit off a chunk of his wife's nose and his mother-in-law's ears was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

Nissim Vaknin, 40, told the court that his wife, Anita, had abused him and cheated on him, and had driven him to commit the offense. He claimed she had even slept with their daughter's boyfriend.

He had pleaded not guilty due to temporary insanity to the charge of aggravated assault, but was recently convicted by Judge Edna Kaplan, who during the sentencing described his actions "nightmarish, bestial and vicious."

The prosecution claimed that in 1993, during the couple's divorce proceedings, Vaknin had threatened to kill his wife.

"You will die young," he reportedly said.

In October 1993 Vaknin came to his mother-in-law's Peta Tikva home where Anita was staying, climbed onto the balcony and entered the apartment. When she saw him, his wife tried lock herself in her bedroom but Vaknin pushed the door open and shoved her head against the wall. Threatening to murder her, he bit off part of her nose and her ear.

Anita's mother tried to call for help, but Vaknin jumped on her, too, biting off part of her ear.

Defense lawyer Haim Misgav said he would appeal the verdict and sentencing to the Supreme Court.

"The sentence is far too severe, especially if you take into consideration recent trials in which a woman was sentenced to eight years for killing her husband, and a man who was imprisoned for ten years for killing his father," said Misgav. "It's true that he injured his wife but this sentence was not justified."

Police checking possible connection between gay murders

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE are investigating whether there is a connection between the murders of Zach Winkler, a homosexual whose body was found Sunday night, and Haifa Technion lecturer Yeshayahu Demner, whose body was found last week.

Winkler was hacked to death at his Pardess Katz home some time over the weekend, but his body was only found after his employers reported that he failed to show up for work.

Originally from Haifa, Winkler worked at two restaurants in the center of the city, and neighbors said he was "always at work." But in the little free time he had, he reportedly entertained men at home.

"He wasn't a criminal type at all," said a neighbor. "He was from a good family and seemed like a nice guy. But he didn't mix with us, and there were always men in his apartment."

Factory owner killed in work accident

An owner of the Argei Mofet textile plant in Ramat Hahayil was killed in a work accident at the plant yesterday morning. Oholiav Hachim, 62, of Tel Aviv, was sucked into one of the machines and suffered a severe blow to the head.

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